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# Irish Songs and Ballads.

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# Irish Songs and Ballads

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

# SONGS OF KILLARNEY.

Second Edition, price 3s. 6d.

ISBISTER & CO., 56, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.

## A Selection of Opinions from the British Press.

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# Irish Songs and Ballads

BY

ALFRED PERCEVAL GRAVES

AUTHOR OF 'SONGS OF KILLARNEY.'



*THIRD EDITION.*

LONDON :  
DAVID BOGUE, 3 ST. MARTIN'S PLACE,  
TRAFALGAR SQUARE, W.C.

1882.

GENERAL



TO MY UNCLE,  
ROBERT PERCEVAL GRAVES,  
THE INDULGENT CRITIC  
OF MY BOYISH VERSES,  
THE HELPFUL COUNSELLOR  
OF MY EARLY MANHOOD,  
*This Volume*  
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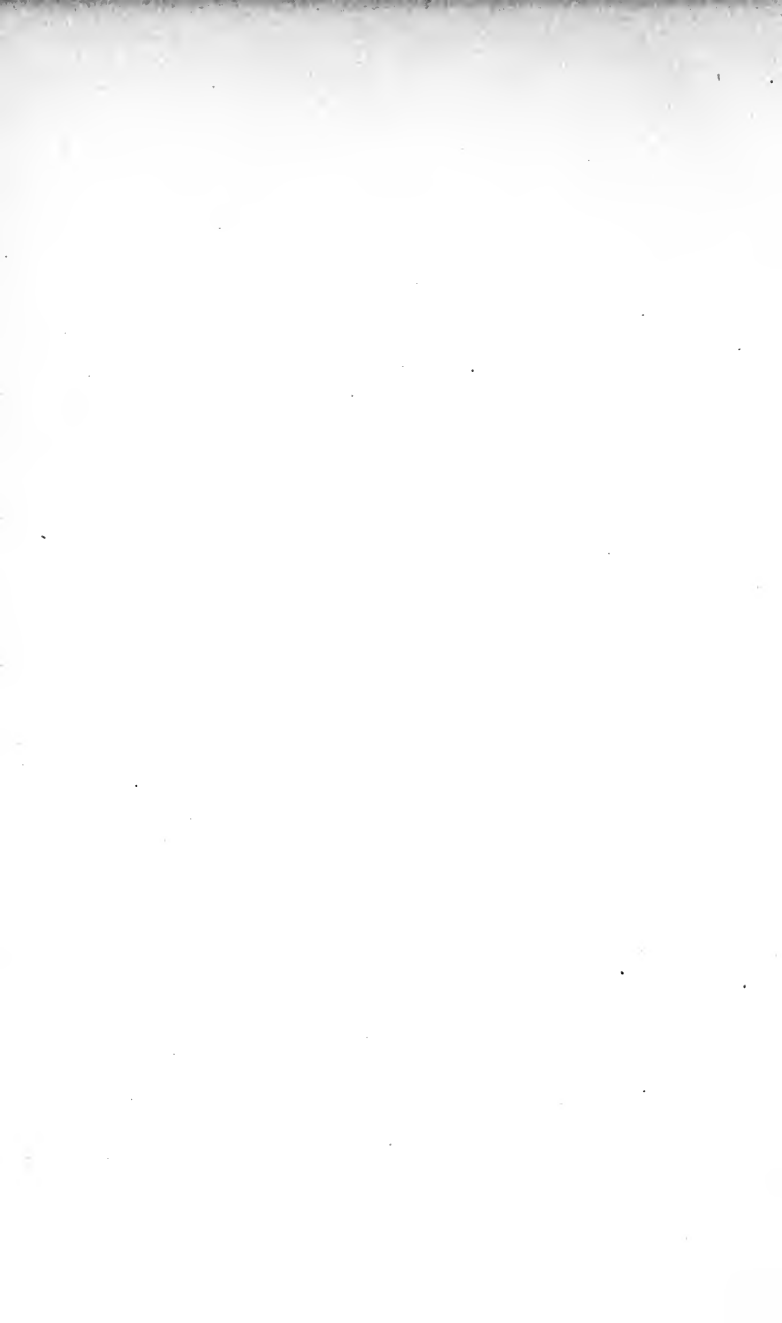
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
DEDICATION    -       -       -       -       -       -       -	v
PREFACE       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	ix
SONGS AND BALLADS -       -       -       -       -       -       -	I
RUSTIC POEMS    -       -       -       -       -       -       -	69
ANGLO-IRISH BALLADS       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	105
FROM THE CELTIC       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	123
SONGS AND SKETCHES       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	153
MUSIC           -       -       -       -       -       -       -	201
MUSICAL NOTE       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	202
NOTES           -       -       -       -       -       -       -	241
INDEX           -       -       -       -       -       -       -	271



## PREFACE.

---

*MOST of the Songs and Ballads in this volume, if not actually composed to the music of old Irish airs, owe to them their prime impulse and complete character. I speak in the main of airs in Bunting's collection, which have been left untouched by Moore, and of others in Petrie's and Hoffmann's collections, published after the last of the poet's Irish melodies, which will therefore be fresh to all but specialists in Irish music. Whenever the Celtic or Anglo-Irish words to these airs or fragments of them remained, I have not for a moment scrupled to press into my service whatever appeared to me poetical in the original; though in such cases I have taken care in the notes at the end of this volume to give my readers an opportunity of comparing my version with these older forms.*

*Under this head will be found such songs of occupation as the Smith's Song, the Mill Song, and Spinning and Weaving Songs; Fishing, Hunting, and Farming Ballads; Convivial Songs to the Jig and Planxty, and a Festal Chorus; the Loobeen, or Irish Amœbæan; Love Songs and Love Ballads, Lullabies and Lamentations. In order that the reader may be able to realize the character of the more remarkable Irish airs to which my songs are written, seven and twenty of them are printed in a musical appendix to this volume.*

*Some half-dozen of these, arranged as songs by Mr. Joseph Robinson, have been published separately by Messrs. Cramer,*

*Wood, and Co., of Westmorland Street, Dublin, and it is probable that others will see the light shortly.*

*With regard to the poems of an Idyllic character in my book, I cannot do more than say that they are the outcome of an affectionate study of Irish peasant-life among the mountains of Kerry.*

*A few Bardic Lyrics are presented in verse closely translated from the Celtic, and a long poem, "The Fairy Branch," based upon a somewhat homely prose original, a reference to which will be found in the notes, is put forward as an experiment in the poetical treatment of early Irish tales.*

*I desire here to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to Dr. P. W. Joyce, the author of "Old Celtic Romances" and "Irish Names of Places," for the invaluable aid which, as a Celtic scholar, a literary critic, and a leading authority in Irish music and song, he has rendered me throughout the course of this work.*

ALFRED PERCEVAL GRAVES,

20, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield.

May, 1880.

SONGS AND BALLADS.







## THE LITTLE RED LARK.

---

OH, swan of slenderness,  
Dove of tenderness,  
Jewel of joys, arise !  
The little red lark  
Like a rosy spark  
Of song to his sunburst flies.  
But till thou art risen  
Earth is a prison  
Full of my lonesome sighs ;  
Then awake and discover  
To thy fond lover  
The morn of thy matchless eyes.

The dawn is dark to me  
Hark ! oh, hark to me,  
Pulse of my heart, I pray !  
And out of thy hiding  
With blushes gliding,  
Dazzle me with thy day.

Ah, then, once more to thee  
Flying I'll pour to thee  
    Passion so sweet and gay,  
The lark shall listen,  
And dewdrops glisten,  
    Laughing on every spray.

---

LOVE'S WISHES.

---

WOULD I were Erin's apple-blossom o'er you,  
Or Erin's rose in all its beauty blown,  
To drop my richest petals down before you,  
Within the garden where you walk alone ;  
In hope you'd turn and pluck a little posy,  
With loving fingers through my foliage pressed,  
And kiss it close and set it blushing rosy  
To sigh out all its sweetness on your breast.

Would I might take the pigeon's flight towards you,  
And perch beside your window-pane above,  
And murmur how my heart of hearts it hoards you,  
O hundred thousand treasures of my love ;  
In hope you'd stretch your slender hand and take me,  
And smooth my wildly-fluttering wings to rest,  
And lift me to your loving lips and make me  
My bower of blisses in your loving breast.

---

I ONCE LOVED A BOY.

---

I ONCE loved a boy, and a bold Irish boy,  
Far away in the hills of the West ;  
Ah ! the love of that boy was my jewel of joy,  
And I built him a bower in my breast,  
In my breast ;  
And I built him a bower in my breast.

I once loved a boy, and I trusted him true,  
And I built him a bower in my breast ;  
But away, wirrasthru ! the rover he flew,  
And robbed my poor heart of its rest,  
Of its rest ;  
And robbed my poor heart of its rest.

The spring-time returns, and the sweet speckled thrush  
Murmurs soft to his mate on her nest,  
But for ever there's fallen a sorrowful hush  
O'er the bower that I built in my breast,  
In my breast ;  
O'er the desolate bower in my breast.

THE BANKS OF THE DAISIES.

---

WHEN first I saw young Molly  
Stretched beneath the holly,  
Fast asleep, forenint her sheep, one dreamy summer's day,  
With daisies laughing round her,  
Hand and foot I bound her,  
Then kissed her on her blooming cheek, and softly stole away.

But, as with blushes burning  
Tip-toe I was turning,  
From sleep she starts, and on me darts a dreadful lightning ray;  
My foolish flowery fetters  
Scornfully she scatters,  
And like a winter sunbeam she coldly sweeps away.

But Love, young Love, comes stooping  
O'er my daisies drooping,  
And oh ! each flower with fairy power the rosy boy renews ;  
Then twines each charming cluster  
In links of starry lustre,  
And with the chain enchanting my colleen proud pursues.

And soon I met young Molly  
Musing melancholy,  
With downcast eyes and starting sighs, along the meadow bank  
And oh ! her swelling bosom  
Was wreathed with daisy blossom,  
Like stars in summer heaven, as in my arms she sank.

---

HERRING IS KING.

---

LET all the fish that swim the sea,  
    Salmon and turbot, cod and ling,  
Bow down the head, and bend the knee  
    To herring, their king ! to herring, their king !  
*Sing, Hugamar fein an sowra lin',*  
*'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

The sun sank down so round and red  
    Upon the bay, upon the bay ;  
The sails shook idle overhead,  
    Becalmed we lay, becalmed we lay ;  
*Sing, Hugamar fein an sowra lin',*  
*'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

Till Shawn the eagle dropped on deck  
    The bright-eyed boy, the bright-eyed boy ;  
'Tis he has spied your silver track,  
    Herring, our joy, herring, our joy ;  
*Sing, Hugamar fein an sowra lin',*  
*'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

It was in with the sails and away to shore,  
With the rise and swing, the rise and swing  
Of two stout lads at each smoking oar,  
After herring, our king, herring, our king ;  
*Sing, Hugamar féin an sowra lin',*  
*'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

The Manx and the Cornish raised the shout,  
And joined the chase and joined the chase ;  
But their fleets they fouled as they went about,  
And we won the race, we won the race ;  
*Sing, Hugamar féin an sowra lin',*  
*'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

For we turned and faced you full to land,  
Down the góleen long, the góleen long,  
And, after you, slipped from strand to strand  
Our nets so strong, our nets so strong ;  
*Sing, Hugamar féin an sowra lin',*  
*'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

Then we called to our sweethearts and our wives,  
“Come welcome us home, welcome us home,”  
Till they ran to meet us for their lives  
Into the foam, into the foam ;



*Sing, Hugamar féin an sowra lin',  
'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

O the kissing of hands and waving of caps  
From girl and boy, from girl and boy,  
While you leapt by scores in the lasses' laps,  
Herring, our joy, herring, our joy ;  
*Sing, Hugamar féin an sowra lin',  
'Tis we have brought the summer in.*

---

HUSH SONG.

---

I WOULD hush my lovely laddo,  
In the green arbutus' shadow,  
O'er the fragrant, flowering meadow,  
In the smiling spring-time.

*Shoheen sho lo,*  
*Shoheen hoo lo !*

I'd hush my boy beside the fountain,  
By the soothing, silvery fountain,  
On the pleasant, purple mountain,  
In the sultry summer.

*Shoheen sho lo,*  
*Shoheen hoo lo !*

I would smooth my darling's pillow,  
By the blue Atlantic billow,  
On the shores of Parknasilla,  
In the golden autumn.

*Shoheen sho lo,*  
*Shoheen hoo lo !*

I would soothe my child to slumber,  
By the rosy, rustling ember,  
Through the days of dark December,  
In the stormy winter.

*Shoheen sho lo,*  
*Shoheen hoo lo !*

May no cruel fairy charm thee !  
May no dread banshee alarm thee !  
Flood, nor fire, nor sickness harm thee !

Winter, spring, and summer,—  
Summer, autumn, winter,

*Shoheen sho lo,*  
*Shoheen hoo lo !*

---

## THE FOGGY DEW.

OH ! a wan cloud was drawn  
O'er the dim, weeping dawn,  
As to Shannon's side I returned at last ;  
And the heart in my breast  
For the girl I loved best  
Was beating—ah beating, how loud and fast !  
While the doubts and the fears  
Of the long, aching years  
Seemed mingling their voices with the moaning flood ;  
Till full in my path,  
Like a wild water-wraith,  
My true love's shadow lamenting stood.

But the sudden sun kissed  
The cold, cruel mist  
Into dancing showers of diamond dew ;  
The dark flowing stream  
Laughed back to his beam,  
And the lark soared singing aloft in the blue ;

While no phantom of night,  
But a form of delight  
Ran with arms outspread to her darling boy :  
And the girl I love best  
On my wild, throbbing breast  
Hid her thousand treasures, with a cry of joy.

---

THE CONFESSION.

---

A LOVELY lass with modest mien  
Stole out one morning early ;  
The dew-drops glancing o'er the green  
Made all her pathway pearly.  
Young Lawrence struck with Cupid's dart,—  
Cupid's dart distressing,—  
As through the fields he saw her start,  
Sighed, " She's gone confessing !  
O vo ! 'twould ease *my* heart  
To earn the father's blessing."

The Father, with a twinkling eye,  
He watched my boyo cunning,  
Unnoticed by his colleen's eye  
Behind the bushes running.  
" How well," he laughed, " young Lawrence there,  
After all my pressing,  
With his sweetheart, I declare,  
Comes at last confessing.



Oho ! I'll just take care  
To give the lad a lesson."

The pleasant priest unbarred the door,  
As solemn as a shadow,  
"How slow," cried he, "you've come before,  
How hot-foot now, my laddo.  
The serious steal with looks sedate,  
Seeking to be shriven,  
But you, you're in no fitting state  
Now to be forgiven,  
So go within and wait  
With all your thoughts on heaven."

The fair one following in a while  
Made out her faults with meekness ;  
The priest then asked her with a smile  
Had she no other weakness,  
And led with that young Lawrence in ;  
Her cheeks were now confessing.  
"Well, since 'tis after all a sin  
Easy of redressing,  
Here, dear, I'd best begin  
To give you both my blessing."

THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME.

---

THE route has come, we march away,  
Our colours dance before us,  
But sorrow's cloud made dark the day  
That from our sweethearts tore us ;  
My own dear lass she sobbed " adieu,"  
Her loving arms entwined me,  
And oft she prayed me to be true  
To the girl I left behind me.

Yes ! I'll be true ; when steel to steel  
The ranks of war are rolling,  
And round us every cannon peal  
A funeral knell is tolling ;  
Then if from out the battle flame  
A fatal ball should find me,  
My dying lips shall bless the name  
Of the girl I left behind me.



But, if in triumph I return

To tell a soldier's story,

Though proudly on my breast should burn

The golden cross of glory,

No other maid with magic art

Shall break the links that bind me

For ever to the faithful heart

Of the girl I left behind me.

---

EVA TUOHILL.

---

WHO'S not heard of Eva Tuohill,  
Munster's purest, proudest jewel—  
Queen of Limerick's lovely maidens,  
Cork's colleens, and Galway girls—  
With her slender shape that's swimmin'  
Like a swan among the women,  
With her voice of silver cadence,  
And her crown of clustering curls?

O! the eyes of Eva Tuohill!  
Now, why wouldn't Cromwell cruel,  
Just have called two centuries later  
With his cannon at Tervoe?  
For, one flash of angry azure  
Through that silky black embrasure,  
And away old Noll should scatter  
With his army out of view.

Is't describe you Eva Tuohill  
With the dozenth rapier duel,

Fought to fix her sweet complexion  
And the colour of her hair ?  
Is it picture you her figure,  
That's compelled so many a trigger  
Take the deadliest direction  
Through the early morning air ?

Well, no wonder, Eva Tuohill !  
Since you're just one glorious jewel  
Lit with lovely flying flushes  
From delightful lip to brow ;  
Now in dreams your eyes they darkle,  
Now with joy they dance and sparkle ;  
Now your cheek is bathed in blushes,  
Drowned in dimpled laughter now.

But your beauty, Eva Tuohill,  
Is no opal false and cruel ;  
Nor the meteor star deceiving,  
Flashing ruin from above.  
No ! but some divinest splendour,  
Out of angels' tear-drops tender  
Crystalled, in one Iris weaving  
Faith and Hope and Virgin Love.

## 'TIS I CAN WEAVE WOOLLEN AND LINEN.

---

'Tis I can weave woollen and linen,  
The finest folk wear on their backs ;  
So, girls, come give over your spinnin',  
And wind off your wool and your flax !

Five year at my woollen and linen  
I've woven from mornin' to night,  
With a heart that beat heavy beginnin',  
But is leapin' for ever more light.

For with guineas full up is the stockin',  
Sewed safe in the tick of my bed,  
And 'tis soon that I'll rest without rockin',  
Since at Shrove with my Willy I'll wed.

---

## MAUREEN, MAUREEN!

---

OH ! Maureen, Maureen, have you forgotten  
The fond confession that you made to me,  
While round us fluttered the white bog cotton,  
And o'er us waved the wild arbutus tree?  
Like bits of sky bo-peeping through the bower,  
No sooner were your blue eyes sought than flown,  
Till white and fluttering as the cotton flower  
Your slender hand it slipped into my own.

Oh ! Maureen, Maureen, do you remember  
The faithful promise that you pledged to me  
The night we parted in black December  
Beneath the tempest-tossed arbutus tree,  
When faster than the drops from heaven flowing  
Your heavy tears they showered with ceaseless start,  
And wilder than the storm-wind round us blowing  
Your bitter sobs they smote upon my heart ?

Oh ! Maureen, Maureen, for your love only  
I left my father and mother dear ;  
Within the churchyard they're lying lonely,  
'Tis from their tombstone I've travelled here.  
Their only son, you sent me o'er the billow,  
Ochone ! though kneeling they implored me stay ;  
They sickened with no child to smooth their pillow ;  
They died. Are you as dead to me as they ?

Oh ! Maureen, must then the love I bore you—  
Seven lonesome summers of longing trust—  
Turn like the fortune I've gathered for you,  
Like treacherous fairy treasure, into dust ?  
But Maureen bawn asthore, your proud lips quiver ;  
Into your scornful eyes the tears they start ;  
Your rebel hand returns to mine for ever ;  
Oh ! Maureen, Maureen, never more we'll part.

---

## WHEN I ROSE IN THE MORNING.

---

WHEN I rose in the morning,  
My heart full of woe,  
I implored all the song birds  
Why their mates on the bough  
To their pleading gave heeding,  
While Kate still said "No ;"  
But they made no kind answer  
To a heart full of woe.

Till the wood-quest at noon,  
From the forest below,  
He taught me his secret  
So tender and low  
Of stealing fond feeling  
With sweet notes of woe,  
Coo-cooing so soft  
Through the green leafy row.

The long shadows fell,  
And the sun he sank low,  
And again I was pleading  
In the mild evening glow :  
“ Ah ! Kitty, have pity ! ”  
Then how could she say “ No. ”  
So for ever I'm free  
From a heart full of woe.

---



## THE MILL SONG.

CORN is a-sowing  
Over the hill,  
The stream is a-flowing,  
Round goes the mill.

*Winding and grinding,  
Round goes the mill ;  
Winding and grinding  
Should never stand still.  
The hands that are strongest  
Are welcome here,  
And those that work longest  
Earn the best cheer.*

The green corn is hinting  
Over the hill,  
Lasses tormenting  
The lads to their fill.

*Winding and grinding, &c.*

The gold corn is glinting  
Over the hill;  
Lasses consenting,  
Lads have their will.

*Winding and grinding, &c.*

Corn is a-carrying  
Into the mill,  
Young folk are marrying  
Over the hill.

*Winding and grinding, &c.*

From the hands of the shaker  
Again goes the corn,  
The old to God's acre  
Gently are borne.

*Winding and grinding, &c.*

The green corn is glistening  
Once more with the spring ;  
Children are christening,  
Glad mothers sing.

*Winding and grinding, &c.*

Thus our life runs around,  
Like the mill with its corn,

Young folk are marrying,

Old folk are burying,

Young folk are born.

*Winding and grinding,*

*Round goes the mill ;*

*Winding and grinding*

*Should never stand still.*

*The hands that are strongest*

*Are welcome here,*

*And they that work longest*

*Earn the best cheer.*

---

'TIS A PITY I CAN'T SEE MY LOVE.  

---

ON his flute of gold the blackbird bold  
Love's tale to his melting mate has told,  
And now the thieves have started ;  
And o'er the ground, in fluttering round,  
Enamoured fly, whilst you and I

In lonesome pain are parted.

But when hearts beat true through the night of sorrow,  
They're blest the more when the magic morrow

Its rosy ray has darted.

Fortune may wave her wings and fly,  
But she'll flutter back again by and by,  
And crown the constant-hearted.

These birds that pair in the April air  
Forget their faith on the branches bare,  
By autumn blasts affrighted,  
And to fresh loves sing with the start of spring ;  
When you and I with a golden ring  
In joy shall be united.

For when hearts beat true through the night of sorrow,  
They're blest the most when the marriage morrow

Its lamp of love has lighted.

Fortune may wave her wings and fly,

'But she'll flutter back to us by and by,

And crown the troth we've plighted.

---

WITH THE NORTH.

---

WITH lip contemptuous curling,  
She cried, "Is freedom's flag above  
Fold on fold unfurling,  
And Patrick pleading love?  
Oh! yes, when patriots hand in hand  
Unite to free their foster-land  
From slavery's accursed band,  
What true man woos a woman?  
Then with my bitter scorning  
Go, live dishonoured, die a slave,  
Or march to-morrow morning  
To battle with the brave."

"We'll steal a march on sorrow,"  
Our Captain sighed, a soldier grey,  
"Sound the drum to-morrow  
Before the dawn of day."

But ere the drum's first muffled beat  
The women crowded down the street,  
How many never more to meet  
    Their death-devoted heroes.  
Then as I passed her dwelling,  
    My proud one o'er her casement frame,  
The sobs her bosom swelling,  
    Leant forth and sighed my name.

Oh ! have you seen Atlantic  
    Advance his green, resistless line  
Against the cliffs gigantic,  
    And bury them in brine ?  
Thus on our stubborn foe we fell,  
Death's lightning darting from our steel,  
Whilst round us every cannon peal  
    A hero's requiem thundered !  
And still with forward faces  
    Went down in death our dauntless men,  
And still into their places  
    As gallant hearts stepped in.

Till to a sunburst glorious,  
    That all the field of battle fired,

Before our van victorious  
The sullen South retired.  
Then peace returned, and from the war  
Our banner bright with many a star  
'Twas mine to flutter from afar  
In triumph to our city ;  
Till I at last could wreath it  
Around my true love's throbbing heart,  
And we two kissed beneath it,  
Oh ! never more to part.

---



NANCY, THE PRIDE OF THE WEST.

---

WE have dark lovely looks on the shores where the Spanish  
From their gay ships came gallantly forth,  
And the sweet shrinking violets sooner will vanish  
Than modest blue eyes from our north ;  
But oh ! if the fairest of fair-daughtered Erin  
Gathered round at her golden request,  
There's not one of them all that she'd think worth comparing  
With Nancy, the pride of the west.

You'd suspect her the statue the Greek fell in love with,  
If you chanced on her musing alone,  
Or some goddess great Jove was offended above with,  
And chilled to a sculpture of stone ;  
But you'd think her no colourless, classical statue,  
When she turned from her pensive repose,  
With her glowing grey eyes glancing timidly at you,  
And the blush of a beautiful rose.

Have you heard Nancy sigh ? then you've caught the sad echo  
From the wind harp enchantingly borne.

Have you heard the girl laugh ? then you've heard the first  
cuckoo

Carol summer's delightful return.

And the songs that poor ignorant country folk fancy

The lark's liquid raptures on high,

Are just old Irish airs from the sweet lips of Nancy,

Flowing up and refreshing the sky.

And though her foot dances so soft from the heather

To the dew-twinkling tussocks of grass,

It but warns the bright drops to slip closer together

To image the exquisite lass ;

We've no men left among us, so lost to emotion,

Or scornful, or cold to her sex,

Who'd resist her, if Nancy once took up the notion

To set that soft foot on their necks.

Yet, for all that the bee flies for honey-dew fragrant

To the half-opened flower of her lips,

And the butterfly pauses, the purple-eyed vagrant,

To play with her pink finger-tips ;

From all human lovers she locks up the treasure

A thousand are starving to taste,

And the fairies alone know the magical measure

Of the ravishing round of her waist.

## JENNY, I'M NOT JESTING.

---

"Ah, Jenny, I'm not jesting,  
Believe what I'm protesting,  
And yield what I'm requesting  
These seven years through."

"Ah, Lawrence, I may grieve you ;  
Yet, if I can't relieve you,  
Sure, why should I deceive you  
With words untrue.

But, since you must be courtin',  
There's Rosy and her fortune,  
'Tis rumoured your consortin'  
With her of late.

Or there's your cousin Kitty,  
So charming and so witty,  
She'd wed you out of pity,  
Kind Kate."

“ Fie ! Jenny, since I knew you,  
Of all the lads that woo you,  
None’s been so faithful to you,

    If truth were told ;  
Even when yourself was dartin’  
Fond looks at fickle Martin,  
Till off the thief went startin’  
    For Sheela’s gold.”

“ And, if you’ve known me longest,  
Why should your love be strongest,  
And his that’s now the youngest,

    For that be worst ?”

“ Fire, Jenny, quickest kindled  
Is always soonest dwindled,  
And thread the swiftest spindled  
    Snaps first.”

“ If that’s your wisdom, Larry,  
The longer I can tarry,  
The luckier I shall marry  
    At long, long last.”

“ I’ve known of girls amusing,  
Their minds, the men refusing,  
Till none were left for choosing  
    At long, long last.”

“ Well, since it seems that marriage  
Is still the safest carriage,  
And all the world disparage  
    The spinster lone ;  
Since you might still forsake me,  
I think I'll let you take me.  
Yes ! Larry, you may make me  
    Your own ! ”

---

## THE HOUR WE PARTED.

---

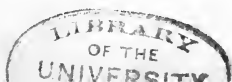
THE hour we parted,  
When broken-hearted  
You clung around me,  
    Maureen, aroo,  
I swore I'd treasure,  
Thro' pain and pleasure,  
Thro' health and sickness,  
    My love for you.

And still that jewel,  
Thro' changes cruel  
Of fickle Fortune  
    I'll jealous guard ;  
Still let her vary,  
The jade contràry,  
If but my Mary  
    Be my reward.

Yes ! scorn and anger,  
Distress and languor,  
They're welcome willing,  
    The long day thro',  
Could I feel certain  
That ev'ning's curtain  
But clos'd us nearer,  
    Maureen, aroo !

The dreamy shadows  
Along the meadows  
Go softly stealing,  
    And falls the dew ;  
And o'er the billows,  
Like faithful swallows,  
All, all my thoughts, dear,  
    Fly home to you.

With touches silken,  
I see you milkin'  
The crossest Kerry  
    In Adragole ;  
And like a fairy,  
You're singing, Mary,



Till every keeler  
Is foaming full.

The night is falling,  
And you are calling  
The cattle homeward,  
With coaxing tone ;  
In God's own keeping,  
Awake or sleeping,  
'Tis now I leave you,  
Maureen, mavrone !

---



THE SMITH'S SONG.

---

“ DING dong, didilium ! the big sledge is swinging,  
Ding dong, didilium ! the little hammer's ringing,  
Ding dong, didilium ! set the bellows snoring :  
Ding dong, didilium ! the red fire is roaring.”

“ Hush, boys, and hark, boys, I hear a pair eloping,  
Hush, boys, and hark, boys, they'll go free, I'm hoping,  
Ding dong, didilium ! I hear a shoe clinking,  
Ding dong, didilium ! there's need of nails, I'm thinking.”

“ For Heaven's sake, a shoe, smith ! ” “ Your honor, here 'tis  
ready ;

Woa, mare, and so, mare, and steady, girl, steady !  
Ding dong, didilium ! off goes the carriage,  
Ding dong, didilium ! good luck be with the marriage.”

“ Hush, boys, and hark, boys, I hear the kettle-drumming,  
' Drimin dhu, drimin dhu,' King James's horse are coming ;  
Up, on the thatch, where my pretty pikes are hidden,  
And have them all handy and bright when you're bidden.”

“For Heaven’s sake, the pikes, smith!” “They’re here  
for your picking,  
Long pikes and strong pikes, and pikes for Dutchmen  
sticking !  
Ding dong, didilium ! cursing in their cruppers,  
Here jog the Mynherrs, ’tis time for our suppers.”

---

MO MOIREEN DHU.

---

WHEN I sailed away  
To win wealth for you  
O'er the stormy sea,  
O mo moireen dhu !  
On the western wave  
A black pirate knave  
Bore me off his slave  
From mo moireen dhu !  
And I should work  
For the tyrant Turk,  
In cruel chains, beneath the scorching sun,  
And never hear, when the dreadful week was done,  
Bells for Christian prayer  
Calling through the air.  
  
Till a Moslem maid,  
For the love of me,  
With her artful aid,  
Stole and set me free.

But no soft colloque  
With that charming rogue,  
Mo moireen oge,  
    Turned my heart from thee,  
And I'm home at last  
O'er the ocean vast,  
My good red gold, in gaily glittering store,  
Into mo moireen's modest lap to pour ;  
    While with magic swell  
    Wakes our marriage bell.

---

PLERACA.

---

*BEIMEEDH a gole !*

Fill up the bowl,

Let us console

Dull care with a glass, boys !

Shall it be wine,

Fragrant and fine,

Fresh smuggled from Spain underneath a mattràss, boys ?

No ! all of those pleasant

Casks out of Cadiz

Leave as a present,

Lads, for the ladies !

But for ourselves, sure

What should we say

But Whiskey for ever !

Till dawning of day.

*Beimeedh a gole !*

Wasn't it droll,

He that first stole  
Fire from Heaven's grate, boys,  
Look now, was left,  
Chained to a cleft,  
A century through, for an eagle to ate, boys !  
St. Pat, though, when stealing  
Fire from that quarter,  
Kept it concealing  
Snug under water ;  
Till he'd conveyed it  
Safe to the ground,  
Then looked, and, begorra,  
'Twas *whiskey* he found.

*Beimeedh a gole!*  
Each with his poll  
Quite in control,  
For all its containing ;  
Smiling we sit,  
Warming our wit  
With nectar the Gods might begrudge us the draining.  
Now, ere we go snoozing  
Under the clothes,  
Don't be refusing  
One health I propose.

Here's to the darling,  
Pale as the dew,  
That pounds Purple Bacchus  
And all of his crew !

---

SONG OF THE GHOST.

---

WHEN all were dreaming  
But Pastheen Power,  
A light came streaming  
Beneath her bower :  
A heavy foot  
At her door delayed,  
A heavy hand  
On the latch was laid.

“ Now who dare venture,  
At this dark hour,  
Unbid to enter  
My maiden bower ? ”  
“ Dear Pastheen, open  
The door to me,  
And your true lover  
You'll surely see.”



“ My own true lover,  
    So tall and brave,  
Lives exiled over  
    The angry wave.”

“ Your true love’s body  
    Lies on the bier,  
His faithful spirit  
    Is with you here.”

“ His look was cheerful,  
    His voice was gay ;  
Your speech is fearful,  
    Your face is grey ;  
And sad and sunken  
    Your eye of blue,  
But Patrick, Patrick,  
    Alas ! ’tis you !”

Ere dawn was breaking  
    She heard below  
The two cocks shaking  
    Their wings to crow.  
“ Oh, hush you, hush you,  
    Both red and grey,

Or you will hurry  
My love away.

“ Oh, hush your crowing,  
Both grey and red,  
Or he'll be going  
To join the dead ;  
Oh, cease from calling  
His ghost to the mould,  
And I'll come crowning  
Your combs with gold.”

When all were dreaming  
But Pastheen Power,  
A light went streaming  
From out her bower ;  
And on the morrow,  
When they awoke,  
They knew that sorrow  
Her heart had broke.

---

COLLEEN OGE ASTHORE.

---

WHEN I marched away to war,  
How you kissed me o'er and o'er :  
    Weeping, pressed me ;  
    Sobbing, blessed me ;  
Colleen, colleen oge asthore.

I was wounded, wounded sore,  
*Dead*, your father falsely swore ;  
    Mad to harry  
    You to marry  
One with miser-gold in store.

Ah ! but when you dreamed me dead,  
Forth you flew a wildered maid :  
    Ever grieving,  
    Ever weaving  
Willow, willow for your head.

“Nay, he lives,” your mother said,  
But you only shook your head ;  
“ Why deceive me ?  
Ah ! believe me,  
Mother, mother, he is dead.”

So you pined and pined away,  
Till, when in the winter grey  
Home I hasted,  
Wan and wasted,  
Colleen, colleen oge, you lay.

“ ’Tis his lonesome ghost,” you said,  
“ Come to call me to the dead ; ”  
“ Nay, discover  
Your dear lover  
Longing now at last to wed.”

Then your cheek, so pale before,  
With the rose of hope once more,  
Faintly, slowly,  
Brightly, wholly,  
Blossomed, colleen oge ashore.

Till upon the chapel floor,  
Side by side, we knelt and swore,  
Duty dearest,  
Love sincerest,  
Colleen, colleen oge ashore.

---

THE FLIGHT OF THE EARLS.

---

To other shores across the sea  
We speed with swelling sail ;  
Yet still there lingers on our lee  
A phantom Innisfail.  
Oh fear, fear not, gentle ghost,  
Your sons shall turn untrue !  
Though fain to fly your lovely coast,  
They leave their hearts with you.

As slowly into distance dim  
Your shadow sinks and dies,  
So o'er the ocean's utmost rim  
Another realm shall rise ;  
New hills shall swell, new vales expand,  
New rivers winding flow,  
But could we for a foster land  
Your mother-love forego ?

Shall mighty Espan's martial praise  
Our patriot pulses still,  
And o'er your memory's fervent rays  
Forever cast a chill?  
Oh, no! we live for your relief,  
Till home from alien earth  
We share the smile that gilds your grief,  
The tear that gems your mirth.

---

KITTY BHAN.

---

BEFORE the first ray of blushing day,  
Who should come by but Kitty bhan,  
With her cheek like the rose on a bed of snows,  
And her bosom beneath like the sailing swan.  
I looked and looked till my heart was gone.

With the foot of the fawn she crossed the lawn,  
Half confiding and half in fear ;  
And her eyes of blue they thrilled me through,  
One blessed minute ; then like the deer,  
Away she darted, and left me here.

Oh ! Sun, you are late at your golden gate,  
For you've nothing to show beneath the sky  
To compare to the lass who crossed the grass  
Of the shamrock field ere the dew was dry,  
And the glance that she gave me as she went by.

---



## THE WHITE BLOSSOM 'S OFF THE BOG.

---

THE white blossom 's off the bog, and the leaves are off the trees,  
And the singing birds have scattered across the stormy seas ;

And oh ! 'tis winter,

Wild, wild winter !

With the lonesome wind sighing for ever through the trees.

How green the leaves were springing ! how glad the birds were  
singing !

When I rested in the meadow with my head on Patrick's knees ;

And oh ! 'twas spring time,

Sweet, sweet spring time !

With the daisies all dancing before in the breeze.

With the spring the fresh leaves they'll laugh upon the trees,

And the birds they'll flutter back with their songs across the seas,

But I'll never rest again with my head on Patrick's knees ;

And for me 'twill be winter,

All the year winter,

With the lonesome wind sighing for ever through the trees.

WITH FLUTTERING JOY.

---

How happy for the little birds  
From tree to tree, away and hither,  
To pour their pretty, warbling words,  
And fly with fluttering joy together !  
But let the sun rejoice the skies,  
Or sullen clouds his glory smother,  
With heavy hearts we still must rise  
Far, far away from one another.

Now leave those foolish, feathered things,  
O Fortune, Fortune, fond and cruel !  
And fit two pair of trusty wings  
Upon myself and Mary jewel,  
That she and I from earth may start,  
And skim the sky on angel feather,  
Till from mid-heaven, heart to heart  
With fluttering joy we fall together.

---

## A SAILOR LOVED A FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

---

A SAILOR once wooed a farmer's daughter,  
The fairest lass in all the country side.  
She loved him well ; but when he besought her  
With beating, beating heart to be his bride,  
" A sailor lad," she said, " I'll never, never wed,  
And live a wife and widow all in one ;  
O no, my charmer shall be a farmer,  
Returning faithful with the set of sun."

At danger's call, across the water  
The sailor went, but left his heart behind ;  
Fresh lovers whispered the farmer's daughter ;  
Yet when they prayed her to confess her mind,  
" A farmer's lad," she said, " I'll never, never wed,  
When heroes bleed to guard their native strand.  
Till war is over I need no lover :  
Then let the stoutest soldier claim my hand."

When peace returned, escaped from slaughter,  
With stars and crosses home our warriors came,  
And some went wooing the farmer's daughter,  
But none could charm the lass to change her name;  
Until once more from far a gallant, gallant tar  
Began with beating heart his love to tell;  
And sweetly turning, with blushes burning,  
She sighed: "Since first we met I've loved you well!"

---

## THE REAPER'S REVENGE.

---

OFTEN I dream of the day, ashore,  
With secret sighs and laughter,  
When you went reaping the oats before,  
And I came gathering after.  
And tenderly, tenderly with the corn  
Looks of love you threw me ;  
Till I stood up with eyes of scorn  
And withered your hopes to woo me.

Often and often I'm dreaming still,  
With tears and smiles together,  
Of the month I stretched so weak and ill  
In the wild and wintry weather.  
While tenderly, tenderly, you would tap  
To know the news of Nora ;  
Till I grew fonder of your rap  
Than my father's voice, acora !

But most I remember the plan concealed  
That through the spring amused you,  
To watch till you found me in the field  
Where in autumn I refused you,  
Then earnestly, earnestly, in my eyes  
To gaze, till I returned you  
The look of looks and the sigh of sighs,  
On the spot where once I spurned you.

---

THE BLUE, BLUE SMOKE.

---

OH, many and many a time  
In the dim old days,  
When the chapel's distant chime  
Pealed the hour of evening praise,  
I've bowed my head in prayer ;  
Then shouldered scythe or bill,  
And travelled free of care  
To my home across the hill ;  
Whilst the blue, blue smoke  
Of my cottage in the coom,  
Softly wreathing,  
Sweetly breathing,  
Waved my thousand welcomes home.

For oft and oft I've stood,  
Delighted in the dew,  
Looking down across the wood,  
Where it stole into my view—  
Sweet spirit of the sod,  
Of our own Irish earth,

Going gently up to God  
From the poor man's hearth.  
O, the blue, blue smoke  
Of my cottage in the coom,  
Softly wreathing,  
Sweetly breathing,  
My thousand welcomes home.

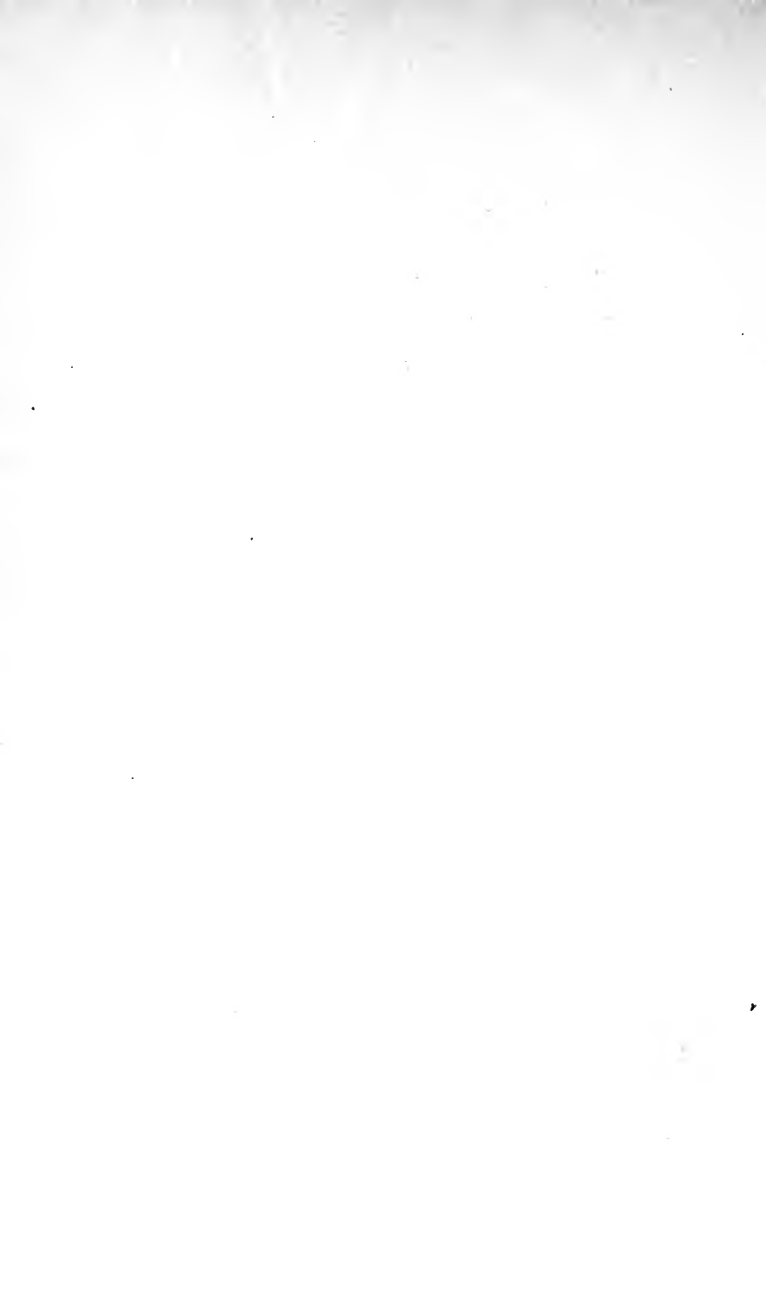
But I hurried swiftly on,  
When Herself from the door  
Came swimming like a swan  
Beside the Shannon shore ;  
And after her in haste,  
On pretty, pattering feet,  
Our rosy cherubs raced  
Their daddy dear to meet ;  
While the blue, blue smoke  
Of my cottage in the coom,  
Softly wreathing,  
Sweetly breathing,  
Waved my thousand welcomes home.

But the times are sorely changed  
Since those dim old days,



And far, far I've ranged  
From those dear old ways ;  
And my colleen's golden hair  
To silver all has grown,  
And our little cherub pair  
Have cherubs of their own ;  
And the black, black smoke,  
Like a heavy funeral plume,  
Darkly wreathing,  
Fearful breathing,  
Crowns the city with its gloom.

But 'tis our comfort sweet,  
Through the long toil of life,  
That we'll turn with tired feet  
From the noise and the strife,  
And wander slowly back  
In the soft western glow,  
Hand in hand by the track  
That we trod long ago ;  
Till the blue, blue smoke  
Of our cottage in the coom,  
Softly wreathing,  
Sweetly breathing,  
Waves our thousand welcomes home.



RUSTIC POEMS.



## FATHER O'FLYNN.

---

OF priests we can offer a charmin' variety,  
Far renowned for larnin' and piety ;  
Still, I'd advance ye widout impropriety,  
Father O'Flynn as the flower of them all.

### CHORUS.

*Here's a health to you, Father O' Flynn,  
Slainté, and slainté, and slainté agin ;  
Powerfulest preacher, and  
Tinderest teacher, and  
Kindliest creature in ould Donegal.*

Don't talk of your Provost and Fellows of Trinity,  
Famous for ever at Greek and Latinity,  
Faix and the divels and all at Divinity,

Father O'Flynn 'd make hares of them all !  
Come, I vinture to give ye my word,  
Never the likes of his logic was heard,  
Down from mythology  
Into thayology,  
Troth ! and conchology if he'd the call.

## CHORUS.

*Here's a health to you, Father O'Flynn,  
Slainté, and slainté, and slainté agin ;  
Powerfulest preacher, and  
Tinderest teacher, and  
Kindliest creature in ould Donegal.*

Och ! Father O'Flynn you've the wonderful way wid you,  
All ould sinners are wishful to pray wid you,  
All the young childer are wild for to play wid you,  
You've such a way wid you, Father avick !  
Still for all you've so gentle a soul,  
Gad, you've your flock in the grandest control ;  
Checking the crazy ones,  
Coaxin' onaisy ones,  
Liftin' the lazy ones on wid the stick.



## CHORUS.

*Herè's a health to you, Father O' Flynn,  
Slainté, and slainté, and slainté agin ;  
Powerfulest preacher, and  
Tinderest teacher, and  
Kindliest creature in ould Donegal.*

And though quite avoidin' all foolish frivolity,  
Still at all seasons of innocent jollity,  
Where was the play-boy could claim an equality  
At comicality, Father, wid you ?  
Once the Bishop looked grave at your jest,  
Till this remark set him off wid the rest :  
" Is it lave gaiety  
All to the laity ?  
Cannot the clargy be Irishmen too ?"

## CHORUS.

*Herè's a health to you, Father O' Flynn,  
Slainté, and slainté, and slainté agin ;  
Powerfulest preacher, and  
Tinderest teacher, and  
Kindliest creature in ould Donegal.*

MOLLEEN OGE.

---

MOLLEEN oge, my' Molleen oge,  
Go put on your natest brogue,  
And slip into your smartest gown,  
You rosy little rogue ;  
For a message kind I bear  
To yourself from ould Adair,  
That Pat the piper 's come around,  
And there'll be dancin' there.

Oh, my Molleen,  
Oh, my colleen,  
We'll dance to Pat,  
And after that  
Collogue upon one chair.

Molleen dear, I'd not presume,  
To encroach into your room,  
But I'd forgot a fairin'  
I'd brought you from Macroom ;



So open, and I swear  
Not one peep upon you ; there !  
'Tis a silver net to gather  
At the glass your goolden hair.  
Oh, my Molleen,  
Oh, my colleen,  
We'll dance to Pat,  
And after that  
Collogue upon one chair.

Molleen pet, my Molleen pet,  
Faix, I'm fairly in a fret  
At the time you're tittivatin' ;  
Molleen, aren't you ready yet ?  
Now net and gown and brogue  
Are you sure you're quite the vogue ?  
But, bedad, you look so lovely,  
I'll forgive you, Molleen oge.  
Oh, my Molleen,  
Oh, my colleen,  
We'll dance to Pat,  
And after that  
Upon one chair collogue.

---

## TWO IRISH IDYLLS.

## I.—RIDING DOUBLE.

TROTTIN' to the fair,  
Me and Moll Malony,  
Sated, I declare,  
On a single pony ;  
How am I to know that  
Molly's safe behind,  
Wid our heads, in oh ! that  
Awk'ard way inclined ?  
By her gintle breathin',  
Whispered past my ear,  
And her white arms wreathin'  
Warm around me *here*.  
Trottin' to the fair,  
Me and Moll Malony,  
Sated, I declare,  
On a single pony.

Yerrig ! Masther Jack,  
Lift your fore-legs higher,

Or a rousin' crack  
Surely you'll require.  
"Ah!" says Moll, "I'm frightened  
That the pony 'll start,"  
And her hands she tightened  
On my happy heart ;  
Till, widout reflectin',  
'Twasn't quite the vogue,  
Somehow, I'm suspectin'  
That I snatched a pogue.  
Trottin' to the fair,  
Me and Moll Malony,  
Sated, I declare,  
On a single pony.

---

## II.—RIDING TREBLE.

Joultin' to the fair,  
Three upon the pony,  
That so lately were  
Me and Moll Malony.  
"How can three be on, boy ?  
Sure, the wife and you,  
Though you should be *wan*, boy,  
Can't be more nor *two*."

Arrah, now, then may be  
You've got eyes to see  
That this purty baby  
Adds us up to *three*.  
Joultin' to the fair  
Three upon the pony,  
That so lately were  
Me and Moll Malony.

Come, give over, Jack,  
Cap'rin' and curvettin',  
All that's on your back  
Foolishly forgettin';  
For I've tuk the notion  
*Wan* may cant'rin' go,  
Trottin' is a motion  
I'd extind to *two* ;  
But to travel steady  
Matches best wid *three*,  
And we're that already,  
Mistress Moll and me.  
Joultin' to the fair  
Three upon the pony,  
That so lately were  
Me and Moll Malony.

FAN FITZGERL.

---

WIRRA, wirra ! ologone !

Can't ye lave a lad alone,

Till he's proved there's no tradition left of any other girl,—

Not even Trojan Helen,

In beauty all excellin',—

Who's been up to half the divlement of Fan Fitzgerl.

Wid her brows of silky black

Arched above for the attack,

Her eyes they dart such azure death on poor admirin' man ;

Masther Cupid, point your arrows,

From this out, agin the sparrows,

For your bested at Love's archery by young Miss Fan.

See what showers of goolden thread

Lift and fall upon her head,

The likes of such a trammel-net at say was niver spread ;

For whin accurately reckoned,

'Twas computed that each second

Of her curls has cot a Kerryman and kilt him dead.

Now mintion, if ye will,  
Brandon Mount and Hungry Hill,  
Or Ma'g'llicuddy's Reeks renowned for crippin' all they can  
Still the country side confisses  
None of all its precipices  
Cause a quarther of the carnage of the nose of Fan.

But your shatthered hearts suppose  
Safely steered apast her nose,  
She's a current and a reef beyant to wreck them rovin' ships  
My maning it is simple,  
For that current is her dimple,  
And the cruel reef 'twill coax ye to 's her coral lips.

I might inform ye further  
Of her bosom's snowy murther,  
And an ankle ambuscadin' through her gown's delightful wh  
But what need, when all the village  
Has forsook its peaceful tillage,  
And flown to war and pillage all for Fan Fitzgerl !

---

## BAT OF THE BRIDGE.

---

ON the bridge of Dereen,  
Away up by Killarney,  
You'll be sure to be seen'  
Poor Batsy O'Kearney  
A big stick in the air  
So lazily swingin',  
Smokin' and jokin'  
And carelessly singin'  
Some snatch of a song,  
Out over the river,  
As it rushes along  
For iver and iver  
To the Bay of Kenmare.

Six feet six  
Is the fix  
Of his height,  
Honour bright !

Forty-eight the diminsion  
Round his ribs by my inchin' ;  
It's murther to say  
Such a man's thrun away.

He's the last to delay  
And the earliest comer  
On the bridge by the bay,  
Winter and summer.  
Do you question why so ?  
What keeps him for iver  
Smokin' and jokin'  
And out on the river  
That rushes below,  
Serenadin' so gaily ?  
'Twas the cowardly blow  
Of a tinker's shillelagh  
Left the proper man so.

But you're wonderin', why,  
How at all it could happen  
Such a broth of a boy  
Got the scandalous rappin'.  
'Twas September fair day,  
And the Adragole faction



Wid Dereen for the green  
 And the bridge were in action ;  
 And from off the bridge road,  
 Wid his cudgel so clever,  
 Bat was leatherin' a load  
 Of Cork men for ever,  
 Just as if it was play.

When up from beneath,  
 Still further and further,  
 Houldin' tight in his teeth  
 A stick that was murther,  
 That black tinker stole,  
 By the ivy boughs clingin',  
 On the edge of the bridge  
 The knees softly swingin' ;  
 And, unknownst at his back,  
 From the wall of the river  
 Fetched O'Kearney a crack,  
 That left him for iver  
 Wid a poor, puzzled poll.

Did he fall ? Not at all !  
 But he picked off that tinkér

Like a snail from the wall ;  
And before you could think, or  
Rebate your own name,  
Cot the stick from the ruffi'n,  
Knocked him dead on the head,  
And widout shroud or coffin  
Tossed him into the tide.  
And his black corpse for ever  
From Ireland should glide,  
For her good soil could never  
Cover up such a shame.

Thin backward agin,  
Wid a bitter screech flyin',  
On the Adragole men,  
Just as they were cryin',  
"The bridge is our own."  
In their thick, like a flail, he  
Swung, till it sung,  
The tinker's shillelagh ;  
So that staggerin' down,  
Broken and batthered,  
Out of the town  
All Adragole scathered  
Before Batsy alone.

Ever since which,  
 Poor Bat's only iday  
 Is to sit on the bridge,  
 Wet day or dry day,  
 Wid that stick in his fist;  
 And no tinkerin' fellas  
 Dare to come there  
 Wid their pots and their bellas,  
 And all Adragole  
 Takes the ford down the river,  
 For fear that the fool  
 On the bridge-end for iver  
 Should give them a twist.

So he's come by a name,  
 The English of which, sir,  
 Translatin' that same,  
 Is "Bat of the Bridge," sir.  
 But the hour's growin' late;  
 Good night, and safe journey!  
 It's afloat in your boat  
 You should be, Doctor Corney.  
 By myself, now, bad scran  
 To the tribe of the tinkers,

For they've left a good man,  
Like a horse widout blinkers,  
All bothered and bate.

Six feet six  
Is the height  
Of poor Batsy to-night,  
Forty-eight the diminsion  
Round his ribs by my inchin' ;  
It's murther, I say,  
Such a man's thrun away.

---

THE LIGHT IN THE SNOW.

---

OH Pat, the bitter day when you bravely parted from us,  
The mother and myself on the cruel quays of Cork :  
When you took the long kiss, and you gave the faithful promise  
That you'd soon bring us over to be wid you at New York.

But the times they grew worse through the wild, weary winter,  
And my needle all we had to find livin' for us two ;  
While the mother drooped and drooped till I knelt down fore-  
nint her  
And closed her dyin' eyes, dear,—but still no word of you.

Then the neighbours thought you false to me but I knew you  
better,  
Though the bud became the leaf, and the corn began to start ;  
And the swallow she flew back, and still sorra letter,  
But I sewed on and on, Pat, and kep' a stout heart.

Till the leaves they decayed, and the rook and the starlin'  
Returned to the stubble, and I'd put by enough  
To start at long last in search of my darlin'  
Alone across the ocean so unruly and rough.

Until at the end, very weak and very weary,  
I reached the overside, and started on my search ;  
But no account for ever of Patrick for his Mary,  
By advertisin' for you, dear, or callin' you in church.

Yet still I struggled on, though my heart was almost broken  
And my feet torn entirely on the rough, rugged stone ;  
Till that day it came round, signs by and by token,  
The day five year that we parted you, mavrone.

Oh ! the snow it was sweepin' through the dark, silent city,  
And the cruel wind it cut through my thin, tattered gown.  
Still I prayed the good God on his daughter to take pity ;  
When a sudden, strange light shone forenint me up the  
town.

And the light it led on till at last right opposite  
A large, lonely house it vanished as I stood ;  
Wid my heart axing wildly of me, was it, oh, was it  
A warnin' of ill or a token of good.

When the light kindled up agin, brighter and bigger,  
And the shadow of a woman across the windy passed ;  
While close, close, and closer to her stole a man's figure,  
And I fainted, as you caught me in your true arms at last.

Then Pat, my own Pat, I saw that you were altered  
To the shadow of yourself by the fever on the brain !  
While " Mary, Mary darlin'," at last your lips they faltered,  
" You've given your poor Patrick his mem'ry back again."

And the good, gentle priest, when he comes, is never weary  
Of sayin', as he spakes of that light in the snow,  
" The Lord heard your prayer, and in pity for you, Mary,  
Restored Pat the raison that he lost long ago."

---

## WHAT IS LIFE WIDOUT A WIFE?

FESTAL CHORUS.

---

THE BOYS.

WHAT is life widout a wife?

THE GIRLS.

'Tis the bee widout his honey ;

'Tis the hoard by misers stored ;

'Tis the spendthrift's waste of money ;

Spring and all her song-birds mute ;

Summer wid no rosy flowers ;

Autumn robbed of all his fruit ;

Winter—and no fireside hours.

THE GIRLS.

What is life widout a husband?

THE BOYS.

Poetry widout an *iday* ;

Powdther, and the shot forgot ;

Fish—and it foriver Friday ;



Musha ! night widout a moon ;  
Faix ! and fever widout physic ;  
Troth ! and music out of tune ;  
'Dad ! and dancin' widout music.

THE GIRLS.

Then, give over playin' rover,  
Lads, wid Jacky-Lantern Folly,  
Fondly turnin' to the burnin'  
Of Love's beacon bright and holy.

THE BOYS.

Now, girls, dear, whisper here !  
Where 'll we find his guidin' beacon.

THE GIRLS.

In the skies of woman's eyes  
Fondly look, and one will waken.

THE BOYS.

Och ! then you coquettes unthruë,  
To one lad at last be list'nin',  
Whilst your rose of beauty blows—  
Whilst like goold your hair is glist'nin'.

Yes ! your charms into our arms  
Yield, whilst you can still be patrons,  
Or too late you'll mourn your fate,  
Poor ould maids among the matrons.

---

THE WRECK OF THE AIDEEN.

---

Is it cure me, docther, darlin'? an ould boy of sivent-y-four,  
Aft'her soakin' off Berehaven three and thirty hour and more,  
Wid no other navigation underneath me but an oar.

God incrase ye, but it's only half myself is livin' still,  
An' there's mountin' slow but surely to my heart the dyin' chill;  
God incrase ye for your goodness, but I'm past all mortal skill.

But ye'll surely let them lift me, won't you, docther, from below?  
Ye'll let them lift me surely—very soft and very slow—  
To see my ould ship, Aideen, wanst agin before I go?

Lay my head upon your shoulder; thank ye kindly, docther,  
dear.

Take me now; God bless ye, cap'n! now together! sorra fear!  
Have no dread that ye'll distress me—now, agin, ochone! I  
see her.

Ologone ! my Aideen's Aideen, christened by her laughin' lip  
Wid a sprinkle from her finger as ye started from the slips,  
Thirty year ago come Shrovetide, like a swan among the ship

•

And we both were constant to ye till the bitter, bitter day,  
Whin the typhus took my darlin', and she pined and pined a  
Till yourself's the only sweetheart that was left me on the say

So through fair and foul we'd travel, you and I thin, usen't w  
The same ould coorse from Galway Bay, by Limerick and  
Tralee,  
Till this storm it shook me overboard, and murdered you,  
machree.

But now, agra, the unruly wind has flown into the west,  
And the silver moon is shinin' soft upon the ocean's breast,  
Like Aideen's smilin' spirit come to call us to our rest.

Still the sight is growin' darker, and I cannot rightly hear ;  
The say's too cold for one so old ; O, save me, cap'n, dear !  
Now its growin' bright and warm agin, and Aideen, Aideen's  
here.

---

THE HANDSOME WITCH.

---

“ HAVE I seen a witch, your honour ?

’Deed I often have that same ;

But the worst was Morna Connor,

Called ‘ The Handsome Witch ’ by name.

She was tall, no woman taller

Ever cross’d your cur’ous sight,

And to see her pass, you’d call her

Higher nor her proper height :

For though Time his constant quarrel

Waged upon her cheek and lip ;

Though he stole their laughin’ coral

And destroyed their lovely clip ;

Though he robbed the sculptured roundness

From her ivory neck and arm,

Wasted up the soft profoundness

Of her bosom’s swellin’ charm ;

Silvered her black head wid sprinkles  
Of his shinin' winter snow ;  
Yes ! and wrote his warnin' wrinkles  
On her bold, unbendin' brow—  
Time himself, that still unsparin'  
Bows the lordliest in the land,  
Could not curb the haughty bearin'  
Of that woman great and grand.  
No ! nor thin one curlin' cluster  
Of her long, luxuriant hair :  
No ! nor quinch the steady lustre  
Of her eyes' contimptuous stare.  
Many a cow wid swellin' udder,  
As the crafty crone went by,  
Took one cowld, unchristian shudder,  
Dad ! and ran completely dry ;  
While the witch she crossed the clover,  
Steadyin' on her skull wid care  
A full keeler frothin' over,  
As if milked from out the air.  
Many a colleen in the dairy  
Still should wave the churn-staff round,  
Scatterin' salt that crabbed fairy  
Wid her canthrips to confound :

But in vain she'd thry for butter,  
Till she hadn't strength to stand ;  
While through clear, enchanted water  
Morna drew the dead-man's hand.  
But I beg your honour's pardon,  
I'll conclude some other day ;  
For the calf is in the garden,  
And the heifer 's at the hay."

---

SAVING THE TURF.

---

CUTTIN' the turf, cuttin' the turf, with our feet on the shinin'  
slan !

Cuttin' the turf, cuttin' the turf, till the cows come home to  
the bawn !

Footin' the turf, footin' the turf, footin' and turnin' our best,  
Footin' the turf, turnin' the turf, till the rook flies home to  
her nest !

Settin' the turf, settin' the turf, hither and over the land,  
Settin' the turf, settin' the turf, till the say-turn sinks on the  
strand !

Drawin' the turf, drawin' the turf, with our ponies and asses  
away,

Drawin' the turf, drawin' the turf, till the boats are out in  
the bay !

Rickin' the turf, rickin' the turf, safe in the haggard at last,  
To keep and to comfort us all from the rage of the rain and  
the blast.

---



## LOOBEEN.

---

BRIDGID.

ERE the sun began to peep,  
Out I wandered through our orchard.

ROSY.

Since you couldn't quiet sleep,  
By the thoughts of Torlogh tortured ;  
For 'tis rumoured how of late,  
By his manly beauty melted,  
With your pippen, plump and straight  
At the boy in vain you pelted.

BRIDGID.

Yes ! Saint Bridgid, for my sake  
Interferin' with that apple,  
Rolled it on to Rory Blake,  
And we're goin' to the chapel.

ROSY.

So you've handsome Rory fast !

Girls, go set the secret spreadin',  
That when solemn Lent is past

We shall dance at Bridgid's weddin' !  
Now, since all her news is out,

Nora, see can you discover,  
Eastward, westward, north, or sout',  
Where's the boy I'd make my lover ?

NORA.

Murt na mo you wish to wed.

ROSY.

Now that notion just be sparin' !  
With a hornet at my head

I'd as soon hop over Erin.  
Come, I'll give a handsome hint,  
Girls, should set you rightly guessin'.  
How is this ? To school I wint,  
Till my master learnt my lesson.

NORA.

At the night-school—I've the whole—  
With her make-believe-be-learnin',

'Tis the model-teacher's poll  
That completely she's been turnin'.

ROSY.

Yes! I've clever Phelim fast.

NORA.

Girls, go set the secret spreadin',  
That when solemn Lent is past  
We shall dance at Rosy's weddin'!

---

## THE BLACK '46.

## A RETROSPECT.

---

Out away across the river,  
Where the purple mountains meet,  
There's as green a wood as iver,  
Fenced you from the flamin' heat.  
And oppòsite, up the mountain,  
Seven ancient cells ye'll see,  
And, below, a holy fountain  
Sheltered by a sacred tree ;  
While between, across the tillage,  
Two boreens full up wid broom  
Draw ye down into a village  
All in ruin on the coom ;  
For the most heart-breakin' story  
Of the fearful famine year  
On the silent wreck before ye  
You may read charàctered clear.

Yous are young, too young for ever  
 To rec'llect the bitter blight,  
 How it crep across the River  
 Unbeknownst beneath the right ;  
 Till we woke up in the mornin',  
 And beheld our country's curse  
 Wave abroad its heavy warnin',  
 Like the white plumes of a hearse.

To our gardens, heavy-hearted,  
 In that dreadful summer's dawn,  
 Young and ould away we started  
 Wid the basket and the slan.  
 But the heart within the bosom  
 Gave one leap of awful dread  
 At each darlin' pratee blossom,  
 White and purple, lyin' dead.  
 Down we dug, but only scattered  
 Poisoned spuds along the slope ;  
 Though each ridge in vain it flattered  
 Our poor hearts' revivin' hope.  
 But the desperate toil we'd double  
 On into the evenin' shades ;  
 Till the earth to share our trouble  
 Shook beneath our groanin' spades ;

Till a mist across the meadows  
From the graveyard rose and spread,  
And 'twas rumoured ghostly shadows,  
Phantoms of our fathers dead,  
Moved among us, wildly sharin'  
In the women's sobs and sighs,  
And our stony, still despairin',  
Till night covered up the skies.  
Thin we knew for bitter certain  
That the vinom-breathin' cloud,  
Closin' still its cruel curtain,  
Surely yet would be our shroud.  
And the fearful sights did folly,  
Och ! no voice could rightly tell,  
But that constant, melancholy  
Murmur of the passin' bell ;  
Till to toll it none among us  
Strong enough at last was found,  
And a silence overhung us  
Awfuller nor any sound.

---

ANGLO-IRISH BALLADS.





## SHUILE AGRA.

(See NOTES.)

---

HIS hair was black, his eye was blue ;  
His arm was stout, his word was true ;  
I wish in my heart I was with you,

*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

*Shuile, shuile, shuile agra,*

Only death can ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go,  
*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

'Tis oft I sat on my true love's knee ;  
Many a fond story he told to me ;  
He told me things that ne'er shall be,

*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

*Shuile, shuile, shuile agra,*

Only death can ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go,  
*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

I sold my rock, I sold my reel ;  
When my flax was spun, I sold my wheel,  
To buy my love a sword of steel,

*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

*Shuile, shuile, shuile agra,*

Only death can ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go,

*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

But when King James was forced to flee,  
The Wild Geese spread their wings to sea,  
And bore mabouchal far from me,

*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

*Shuile, shuile, shuile agra,*

Only death can ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go,

*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

I saw them sail from Brandon hill,  
Then down I sat and cried my fill,  
That every tear would turn a mill,

*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

*Shuile, shuile, shuile agra,*

Only death can ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go,  
*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

I wish the King would return to reign,  
And bring my true love back again ;  
I wish, and wish, but I wish in vain,  
*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

*Shuile, shuile, shuile agra,*  
Only death can ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go,  
*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

I'll dye my petticoat, I'll dye it red,  
And round the world I'll beg my bread,  
Till I find my love alive or dead,  
*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

*Shuile, shuile, shuile agra.*  
Only death can ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go,  
*Gotheen mavourneen slaun.*

---

## GRAGALMACHREE.

*(See NOTES.)*

---

At the foot of Newry Mountain, to a stream in the wood  
One day I went fishing, and the take was so good  
That the very first moment my angle was out  
My hook it was fast in a fine plunging trout.

But as down stream I stepped, with my soul full of sport,  
On a sudden I chanced on a charming resort :  
Where the beeches were bending in beautiful bowers  
O'er a velvet-green carpet embroidered with flowers.

And from under that arbour, so cool and so deep,  
A colleen's voice chanted that made my heart leap,  
For the song that she sang was, " My Lawrence, come hither,  
For upon my secret heart you 've put your comether."

I threw down my angle, and, in through the shade,  
Stole soft to the side of that young, blooming maid :  
O, she's slender in the waist and her face is fair to see,  
And her name in plain Irish is, Gragalmachree.

For her tears and her sobs she scarcely could say,  
“Ah, Lawrence ! ah, Lawrence ! what carried you this way  
To overhear the secret long lodged in my breast,  
And leave me for ever disgraced and distressed ?”

Now, comfort you, comfort you, Gragalmachree,  
For that little, sweet song was Heaven’s music to me,  
And God’s blessing for ever attend on the thought  
That took me fishing trout, till I found myself caught.

And the moon she may darken and the stars lose their light :  
And the green plains of Erin they may blacken with blight,  
And her mountains all melt in the middle of the sea,  
If I ever prove false to my Gragalmachree.

---

'T WAS PRETTY TO BE IN  
BALLINDERRY.

(See NOTES.)

---

'T WAS pretty to be in Ballinderry,  
'T was pretty to be in Aghalee,  
'T was prettier to be in little Ram's Island,  
Trysting under the ivy tree !  
Ochone, ochone !  
Ochone, ochone !  
For often I roved in little Ram's Island,  
Side by side with Phelimy Hyland,  
And still he'd court me and I'd be coy,  
Though at heart I loved him, my handsome boy !

" I'm going," he sighed, " from Ballinderry  
Out and across the stormy sea ;  
Then if in your heart you love me, Mary,  
Open your arms at last to me."  
Ochone, ochone !  
Ochone, ochone !

I opened my arms ; how well he knew me !  
I opened my arms and took him to me ;  
And there, in the gloom of the groaning mast,  
We kissed our first and we kissed our last !

'Twas happy to be in little Ram's Island,  
But now 'tis sad as sad can be ;  
For the ship that sailed with Phelimy Hyland  
Is sunk for ever beneath the sea.

Ochone, ochone !

Ochone, ochone !

And 'tis oh ! but I wear the weeping willow,  
And wander alone by the lonesome billow,  
And cry to him over the cruel sea,  
“ Phelimy Hyland, come back to me !”



## MY BONNY CUCKOO.

(See NOTES.)

---

My bonny cuckoo, come whisper true !  
Around the world I'd rove with you ;  
I'd rove with you until the next spring,  
And still my cuckoo would sweetly sing,—  
"Cuckoo ! cuckoo !" until the next spring ;  
"Cuckoo ! cuckoo !" until the next spring.

The ash and the hazel shall mourning say,—  
"Oh, merry cuckoo, don't fly away !  
The winter wind is rude and keen ;  
Oh, cuckoo, stay and keep us green !  
Cuckoo ! cuckoo ! oh stay ! oh stay !  
And make the season for ever May !"

The thrush and the robin shall sadly cry,—  
"Our bonny cuckoo, oh, do not fly !  
For when you spread your speckled wing  
We have no longer heart to sing.  
Cuckoo, cuckoo, still lead our tune,  
And make the season for ever June !"



The lads and the lasses together stand,  
And call their cuckoo from off the strand,—  
“How can you leave us, bird of love,  
With the green below and the blue above?  
Oh no! oh no! you shall not go,  
With the blue above and the green below.”

---

## THE WILLOW TREE.

(See NOTES.)

---

OH, take me to your arms, love, for we alas must part ;  
Oh, take me to your arms, love, for the pain is at my heart.  
She hears not, she cares not, but coldly keeps from me,  
While here I lie, alone to die, beneath the willow tree.

My love has blooming beauty, my cheek is deadly wan ;  
My love has countless riches, my gallant fortune's gone.  
This ribbon fair, that bound her hair, is all that's left to me,  
While here I lie, alone to die, beneath the willow tree.

I once had gold and silver I thought would never end :  
I once had gold and silver, and I thought I had a friend :  
My wealth is sped, my friend has fled and stolen my love  
from me ;  
While here I lie, alone to die, beneath the willow tree.

---

## JACK THE JOLLY PLOUGHBOY.

(See NOTES.)

---

As Jack the jolly ploughboy was ploughing through his land,  
He turned his share and shouted to bid his horses stand,  
Then down beside his team he sat, contented as a king,  
And Jack he sang his song so sweet he made the mountains ring

*With his Ta-ran-nan nanty na,*

*Sing ta-ran-nan nanty na,*

*While the mountains all ringing re-echoed the singing*

*Of Ta-ran-nan nanty na.*

'Tis said old England's sailors, when wintry tempests roar,  
Will plough the stormy waters, and pray for those on shore;  
But through the angry winter the share, the share for me,  
To drive a steady furrow, and pray for those at sea.

*With my Ta-ran-nan nanty na, &c.*

When heaven above is bluest, and earth most green below,  
Away from wife and sweetheart the fisherman must go;  
But golden seed I'll scatter beside the girl I love,  
And smile to hear the cuckoo, and sigh to hear the dove,

*With my Ta-ran-nan nanty na, &c.*

'Tis oft the hardy fishers a scanty harvest earn,  
And gallant tars from glory on wooden legs return,  
But a bursting crop for ever shall dance before my flail ;  
For I'll live and die a farmer all in the Golden Vale.

*With my Ta-ran-nan nanty na, &c.*

---

## J E N N Y.

(See NOTES.)

---

WITH laughing looks I once arose,  
How dark soe'er the day ;  
Now sadly every sunburst shows,  
For joy has fled away, Jenny ;  
For joy has fled away !

Nor flocks nor herds nor store of gold,  
Nor broad estate have I ;  
If beauty must be bought and sold,  
Alas ! I cannot buy, Jenny ;  
Alas ! I cannot buy.

Yet I'll be rich, if you'll be kind,  
And once again agree  
To bear me still in loving mind  
Till I've a home for thee, Jenny ;  
A home till death for thee.

---

## THE FOX HUNT.

(See NOTES.)

---

THE first morning of March in the year '33,  
There was frolic and fun in our own country :  
The King's County hunt over meadows and rocks,  
Most nobly set out in the search of a fox.

*Hullahoo ! harkaway ! hullahoo ! harkaway !*

*Hullahoo ! harkaway, boys ! away, harkaway !*

When they started bold Reynard he faced Tullamore,  
Through Wicklow and Arklow along the seashore ;  
There he brisked up his brush with a laugh, and says he,  
“ 'Tis mighty refreshing this breeze from the sea.”

*Hullahoo ! harkaway ! hullahoo ! harkaway !*

*Hullahoo ! harkaway, boys ! away, harkaway !*

With the hounds at his heels every inch of the way,  
He led us by sunset right into Roscrea ;  
Here he ran up a chimney and out of the top,  
The rogue he cried out for the hunters to stop

*From their loud harkaway ! hullahoo ! harkaway !*

*Hullahoo ! harkaway, boys ! away, harkaway !*

“ ’Twas a long thirsty stretch since we left the seashore,  
But, lads, here you’ve gallons of claret galore ;  
Myself will make free just to slip out of view,  
And take a small pull at my own mountain dew.”

*So no more hullahoo ! hullahoo ! harkaway !*

*Hullahoo ! harkaway, boys ! away, harkaway !*

One hundred and twenty good sportsmen went down,  
And sought him from Ballyland into Blyboyne ;  
We swore that we’d watch him the length of the night,  
So Reynard, sly Reynard, lay hid till the light.

*Hullahoo ! harkaway ! hullahoo ! harkaway !*

*Hullahoo ! harkaway, boys ! away, harkaway !*

But the hills they re-echoed right early next morn  
With the cry of the hounds and the call of the horn,  
And in spite of his action, his craft, and his skill,  
Our fine fox was taken on top of the hill.

*Hullahoo ! harkaway ! hullahoo ! harkaway !*

*Hullahoo ! harkaway, boys ! away, harkaway !*

When Reynard he knew that his death was so nigh,  
For pen, ink, and paper he called with a sigh ;  
And all his dear wishes on earth to fulfil,  
With these few dying words he declared his last will,

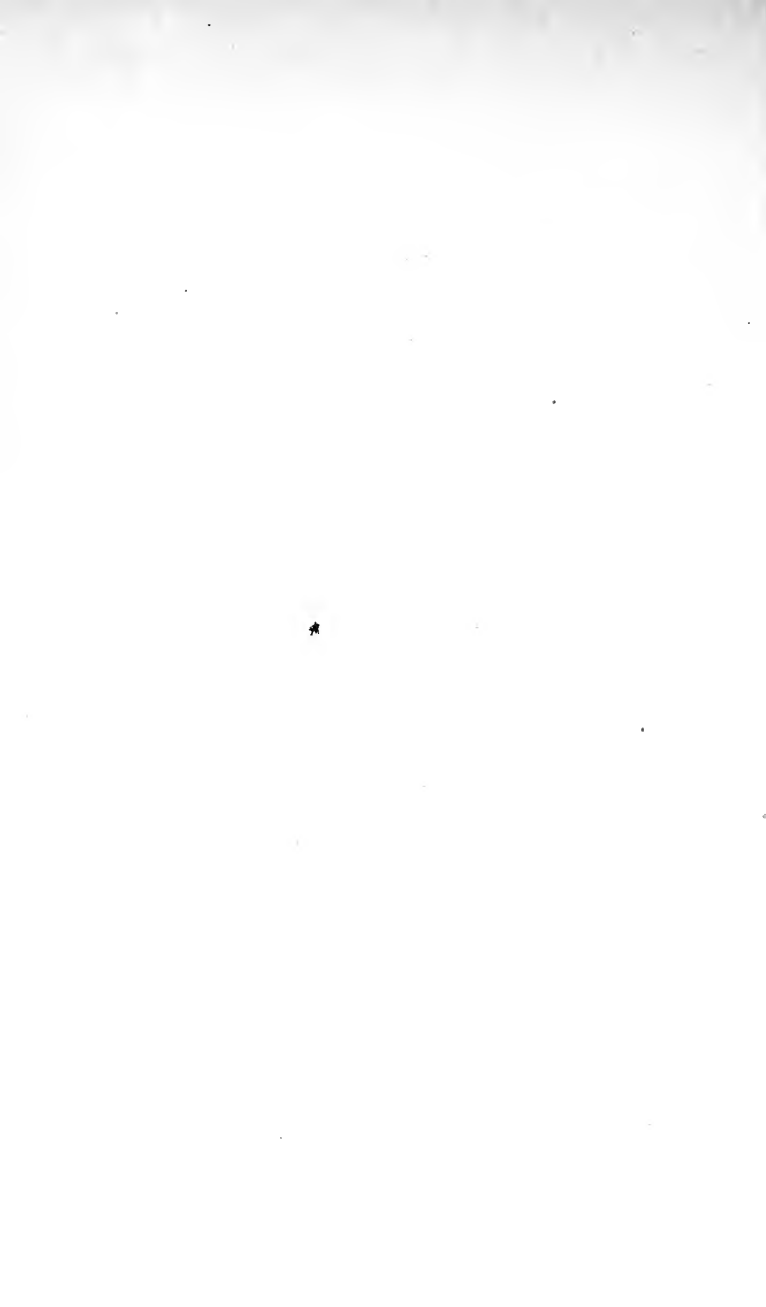
*While we ceased harkaway ! hullahoo ! harkaway !  
Hullahoo ! harkaway, boys ! away, harkaway !*

“ Here’s to you, Mr. Casey, my Curraghmore estate,  
And to you, young O’Brien, my money and plate,  
And to you, Thomas Dennihy, my whip, spurs, and cap,  
For no leap was so cross that you’d look for a gap.”  
And of what he made mention they found it no blank,  
For he gave them a cheque on the National Bank.

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FROM THE CELTIC.



# THE FAIRY BRANCH.

## A BARDIC TALE.

(See NOTES.)

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It chanced upon a time, a magic time,  
That Cormac, son of Art, arch-king of Erin,  
Strode, musing, from his dun in Liathdrum,  
When, lo! a noble youth upon the green,  
And in his hand a glittering, fairy branch  
With nine bright apples of red gold thereon.

This was, indeed, the wonder-working bough,  
That whoso shook, men wounded unto death  
And women travail-tortured sunk to sleep,  
Soothed by the low, delicious lullaby  
Those golden apples uttered. Nay, no want,  
No woe, no weariness endures on earth  
That swiftly stabs or slowly wastes the soul,  
But this sweet branch once shaken wholly hides  
In soft oblivion.

Therefore, spake the king,

“Declare thy coming! Is that branch thine own?”

“Yea, sire,” the youth replied. “Would’st part with it?”

“Aye, truly would I, so I won its worth.”



Queen Eithné searched the sorrow-smitten face  
Of Cormac, and for pity held her peace ;  
And Cairbré took her hand in his and spake not ;  
But Ailbhé snatched a gleaming knife, and shore  
Close to her head her bright, abundant hair,  
With “ Father, often hast thou called these curls  
Thy golden-branching joy—thus, thus they fall  
Before the branch of gold that masters them.”

Then dark distress obscured the eyes of all,  
And broke in bitter rain upon their cheeks,  
And choked the cheerful family of words  
With grievous sighs and great heart-bursting groans,  
Till Cormac caught the wonder-working bough  
And shook it softly o’er them, and forthwith,  
Soothed by the low, delicious lullaby  
Those golden apples uttered, they forgot  
What ill had happ’d them, and arose and went  
With smiles to meet the Bearer of the Branch.  
Howbeit with tears King Cormac strode before.

When lo the youth ! Then Cormac : “ See thy price,  
The heavy price I pledged thee for this branch.”  
“ Well hast thou kept thy promise ; wherefore take  
A blessing for thy truth’s sake ; aye, a blessing  
Shall win thee victory.” Thus they went their way—

The youth and his companions glad at heart :  
The other wifeless, childless, full of woe.

Now on the morrow, when that mournful news  
Was noised abroad through Erin, loud laments  
Arose from all the land, but in Teamhair  
The loudest, from the princes round the throne  
To lowliest labourer in the royal fields ;  
So dear beloved was Eithné for her wealth  
Of queenly wit and wisdom—dearer still  
For constant deeds of thoughtfulest charity ;  
So dear beloved was Cairbré for his might  
Of manly youth, not lightly roused to wrath,  
Yet swift and sure to succour the oppressed ;  
So dear beloved was Ailbhé for her dower  
Of artless beauty and her voice of song,  
That held the blackbirds hushed in Derrycarn.

These, therefore, all the land with many tears  
Bewailing wept ; and tho' their monarch yearned  
To share with them his sorrow, ne'ertheless  
In pity for his people, once again  
He raised the fairy branch of glittering gold  
And shook it in their midst, and so subdued  
Their grief with glamour, till they smiled again.

Yet Cormac's grief possessed him more and more,  
Seeing he mourned alone ; and though in court  
He ever kept a seeming cheerful face,  
Nor lived less instant in his daily round  
Of royal duty : yet the thoughtful days  
Of law and chess and judgment lightest lay  
Upon his suffering spirit. Heavily went  
The weekly wassail ; sadly shone the dawns  
Of race and chase, tho' bright to all beside.  
But darkest gloomed the long, lone day of love ;  
For then within his palace, without food,  
He mused, a mournful man ; or wandering  
From chamber on to chamber, smote  
His bosom at the silent spinning wheel,  
The stringless harp, or touched with trembling hand  
The empty torque of gold, the empty fails  
That last had clasped the lovely neck and arms,  
The round white neck and snowy dimpled arms  
Of Eithné ; or, with heavy foot, awoke  
A groan from Cairbré's armour on the wall—  
A groan his sonless heart gave deeply back ;  
Or in the distance heard some damsel singing  
A favourite song of Ailbhé's, and drew forth  
Her golden hair and bathed it in his tears.

At last the king's high-ollamh thus began :  
" O Cormac, son of Art and son of Conn  
The hundred-battled, let our souls declare  
What long hath lain a burthen on our peace.  
We see thee seeming cheerful on the days  
Of weekly wassail, chess, and race and chase,  
Yet to the careful eye concealing grief :  
We mark thee on the morns of law and judgment  
Discreetly question and deliberate weave  
Thy ordered thoughts in well-knit weighty speech,  
Yet miss thee, as of old, on thy discourses  
Broidering the opal flowers of eloquence,  
Or flashing through them, to the listener's joy,  
The diamond ray of reason-dazzling wit.  
Nay, when that suitor seeking penalty  
Exceeding great for satire on himself  
So bitter true, that when big-bellied, bald  
With blunder-breeding tongue, he raging rose  
Before the Brehon who rehearsed the *rann*,  
A shout of long, side-shaking laughter broke  
From all the young at once, till here and there  
Flashing a furious glance, the satirised  
Retreated with his paunch toward thee, king,  
Yet, careless of his trailing scabbard, tripped,  
And backward staggering with blind hands in air



Caught thy chief cook by his long foxy beard  
Behind the door, and fistful of red hair  
Plumped howling on the pavement. Then ourselves,  
The elders, might no more restrain the mirth  
That swelled our cheeks to bursting. Out it blew  
In bass so brazen or such bleating treble,  
All laughed the louder save thyself alone,  
Only one smile, one faintly flickering smile  
Of dim December sunshine lit thy lips.  
Now in the name of all thy loving people,  
Princes and Lords and Commons, I am come  
Beseeching thee that I may take the Branch  
And shake it o'er thy head and so subdue  
Thy grief with glamour, that the memory  
Of all thine evil loss may from thy mind  
Fade utterly, and again thou may'st arise  
And take to wife the fairest, purest Princess  
Wide-bordered Erin boasts, and sow anew  
Seed-royal that shall richly round thee rise  
Thy manhood's hope, thy flowering fence of age."

Yet Cormac yielded not his people's prayer,  
But root-fast in his barren grief endured,  
Until the leaden-pacing year revolved  
To the dark day that left him desolate.

Then he arose and thrust the Fairy Branch  
Into his bosom and went forth alone  
To that sad region where his Three had left him ;  
When straight a magic mist gathered and gloomed  
Nor melted, till there smote upon his ear  
The sound of manly voices sweetly singing  
To harp and timpan touched with tuneful skill,  
And look, a noble company of youths  
With five slain harts and fifty wearied hounds  
Beneath a mighty hunting-booth carousing  
Upon the mountain. These with gracious greeting  
Rising received him, and their chief approached,  
And in an hospitable hand took his,  
And led him to the seat of utmost honour  
Beside him, and besought him to partake  
Their banquet, ever host-like urging him  
To each its choicest dainties. But the soul  
Of Cormac craved no meats, tho' much he praised the  
And ever guest-like feigned an unfelt hunger :  
Yet as they spake and jested, and sang and harped,  
Scarce tasting food, he quaffed the circling cup,  
Red with the grape and sweet with heather honey,  
Until his heart grew merry and he forgot  
The Fairy Branch ; then swift his host put forth  
A secret hand to where it shook and sparkled

Within his bosom, when lo ! the three gold apples  
That hung the lowest of the nine rang forth  
A tuneless warning, and the monarch caught  
The robber's wrist, and wrung the bough therefrom,  
And shook it o'er him and his company,  
And forthwith they fell grovelling to the ground  
In the similitude of filthy swine ;  
And Cormac knew that he had scarce escaped  
The Cup of Cursing, that of the face of man,  
Stamped with God's image, makes a bestial front,  
And of the mouth, wherefrom His prayer and praise  
Should chiefly flow—a monster's ravening maw.

Again a mist of magic gathering gloomed  
Around the king, nor passed from off his path  
Until a moon of harvest thrilled it through  
With golden glimmering glory, and he was 'ware  
Of one apparelled as a princess, crouched  
Wild weeping on the earth, her reckless hands  
Rending her radiant hair. And Cormac's heart  
Was melted, and he asked her of her grief.  
Then with bowed head she poured a lamentation  
Of her young hero-lover fallen in fight.  
And Cormac met her woe with words of solace,  
And she took comfort and turned to him a face

Whiter than any swan upon the wave—  
A form of fairer fashion. Then the king  
Looked closelier at her, and with wonder viewed  
Her yellow curls, clustering like rings of gold  
Around her waist, and marked her tearful eyes  
Dart through their dusky fringes a dewy beam  
Bluer than ever evening's weeping star  
Shed through the curtain of a summer's cloud :  
When suddenly she oped them full on him  
With wistful gaze, and as she looked a blush  
Took her pale visage, while her slender hand  
Stole throbbing into his. A mighty spell  
Possessed his soul, and nearer still and nearer  
He drew her, till he breathed her red lips' balm,  
And passionately had pressed them to his own—  
When lo ! the midmost row of apples rang  
The warning of the Branch, and in his breast  
He caught the woman's thievish hand upon it,  
And wrung it from her grasp, and o'er her head  
Shook it, and of a sudden her soft, white palm  
Shrivelled, her lovely apple-blossom cheeks  
Withered away, her eyes of heavenly blue  
Grew blear and evil, all her swan-like shape  
Dwindled and shrank ; till at the last there writhed  
Whining before him a little crook-back witch.

Once more the magic mist obscured his course,  
Nor passed until the sun with purple beam  
Piercing its cloud displayed a goodly group  
Of sages seated, all with eager speech  
In such dispute, none knew or seemed to know  
Cormac had joined him to their company,  
Until an end was made to their discourse  
Sophistical of love and life and death.  
Then with a courteous welcome they inquired  
His mind upon their thoughts, and led him on,  
Lauding his judgment, gravely to propound  
And keenly argue ; till at last he grew  
So soul-enamoured of their sophistries  
That when the sage in chief with flattering tongue  
Besought him bide with them continually—  
Such need, such heavy need had they of one  
In wit so shrewd, in eloquence so lofty—  
He fain had fared with them, but ere he spoke,  
The young Branch-bearer's words came back to him :  
“ *Well hast thou kept thy promise ; wherefore take  
A blessing for thy truth's sake—aye, a blessing  
Shall win thee victory,*” while a tuneless peal  
Rang from the topmost row of golden apples  
Upon the Fairy Bough, and Cormac caught  
The elder's thievish hand within his bosom

Upon the Branch, and wrung it fiercely from him,  
And shook it o'er him and his sophist crew,  
And lo ! they vanished gibbering before him,  
A grinning troop of fleshless skeletons.

Again the King of Erin went his ways,  
Nor now had been long journeying, when there stretched  
An hundred-acred field before him, bright  
With stooks of golden corn ; three spear-casts further,  
Crowning a sudden, green, far-looking mound,  
A mansion, many windowed, sunset-flattered  
To topaz, ruby, amethyst, shone and sparkled  
A thousand welcomes, while, behind, a forest  
Laughed back all emerald. Through the field of corn  
He swiftly strode, with noble heart presaging  
His goal at last, and climbed the hill and sought  
The mansion, took the hand-log in his hand  
And boldly knocked. Immediate to the wall  
The door sprang open of its own accord,  
While from within a mighty summons came,  
“ In God's name, enter ! ” Straight he entered in,  
Following the voice, and reached a royal hall,  
Huge, black-oak-raftered, silver-pillared, hung  
Its circuit through with brightly burnished arms,

Elk-antlers, giant boar-tusks, jewelled beakers—  
By seven great archways pierced, with couches seven,  
Silk canopied, yew-carven, fine-fur-covered,  
Betwixt each twain ; a royal champion's seat  
Of beaten gold before its blazing hearth,  
And on the seat a princely Chieftain, clad  
In many-coloured raiment, at his side  
A bright apparelled Princess.

These arose

At Cormac's coming, and bespake him thus :

“ Whoe'er thou art, oh Stranger, 'tis no hour  
To further fare on foot, seeing the sun  
Is well-nigh set ; then sit thee down with us  
And share our banquet, and abide the night  
Beneath our roof, till rosy morn return.”

Then Cormac, son of Art, sat gladly down.

“ Go forth now to the grove,” the woman cried,  
“ Oh goodman of the house ; thy spear in hand,  
For lo ! there lacks sufficiency of meat  
To sate our want.” Therewith the chief arose,  
His hunting spear in hand, and fared abroad,  
Nor tarried long without ; but soon returned,  
A great wood-ranging, acorn-crushing boar,  
Fresh skinned and cleaned and quartered, on his back,  
And in his hand a mighty log of pine,

And cast them down before the fire ; and thus  
To Cormac and the Princess smiling spake :  
“ There have ye meat, now cook it for yourselves.”  
“ After what manner ? ” asked the son of Art.  
“ That I will teach thee,” saith his host ; “ Arise,  
And make four quarters of this log of pine,  
Then lay a quarter log upon the fire,  
And o’er it one full quarter of the boar,  
And tell a tale of truth, however short,  
Above it, and that quarter shall be roast.”

Then Cormac rose and caught a glittering axe,  
And proved it keen and true, and eyed the wood,  
And stepping backwards swung the biting steel  
Once from his shoulder, and the great log fell  
Clean cleft in twain ; twice, thrice, and smote in half  
Each equal portion.

Next the woman laid  
A quarter faggot on the leaping fire,  
And o’er it one full quarter of the swine.

Then Cormac spake : “ Since each hath borne his part,  
’Twere ill-befitting that the one, a guest,  
Should further tell a tale of truth for two—  
His host and hostess.” “ Right thou art, forsooth,”  
The prince replied. “ And now methinks thy speech,  
Matched with thy noble mien, bewrays thee royal ;



Therefore my story first.

That boar is one  
Of seven, yet could I feed the world with them ;  
For I have but to take his bones abroad,  
And bury them beneath a sacred tree,  
And, look, the sod begins to sway and surge,  
Till sudden, from his scarce dug sepulchre,  
The monstrous beast breaks bellowing away."

That tale was true ; and lo ! the flesh was roast.  
"Tell now thy tale, fair princess," saith the king.  
"I will," quoth she, "but do thou first lay down  
Thy quarter log upon the leaping fire,  
And o'er it one full quarter of the boar."  
So it was done.

"Seven cows are mine," saith she,  
"Snow white from horn to hoof, and not a day  
Dawns or declines but these with matchless milk  
Fill seven full kieves, and here's my hand to you,  
My kine could milk enough to satisfy  
The souls of all the sons of earth assembled  
Athirst on yonder plain."

That tale was true.  
And lo ! her quarter of the boar was roast.  
Then Cormac : "If thy tale be true indeed  
Thy husband there is Mananan, thyself

His wedded wife ; for on the face of earth  
Exists there not the owner of such treasures  
Save Mananan alone, for to Tir Tairngire  
He went to seek thy hand and won it well,  
And therewithal to dower, these wondrous cows,  
And coughed upon them till he quite constrained  
Their udders to his will."

" Full wisely now  
Hast thou divined us both !" cried Mananan.  
" But tell a story for thy quarter now."  
" Ay ! sure," saith Cormac, " yet do thou lay down  
Thy faggot now upon the leaping fire,  
And over it thy quarter of the swine."  
So it was done, and thus the King outspake :  
" I come, indeed, upon an anxious quest,  
For 'tis the year to-day my wife and son  
And daughter, three most dear on earth to me,  
Were borne afar." " By whom?" asked Mananan.  
" A youth," the King replied, " there came to me,  
Bearing a golden branch, for which my heart  
Conceived so deep desire, I granted him  
The full award of his own mouth for it,  
The which he thus pronounced against my peace :  
' Therefore I claim thy wife, thy son, thy daughter,—  
Chaste Eithné, gallant Cairbré, winsome Ailbhé.' "

“If what thou sayest be true,” cried Mananan,  
“Thyself art Cormac, son of Art, the son  
Of hundred-battled Conn.” “That same am I,”  
Quoth Cormac, “and in quest of these I come.”  
That tale was true, and lo ! his quarter roast.

“Eat now thy meat,” bespake him Mananan.  
“I never yet broke bread,” the King replied,  
“Having two only in my company.”  
“Would’st thou consume it with three more, O Cormac ?”  
“Yea, good mine host, were they but dear to me.”

Then Mananan arose and oped the door,  
The farthest from his hearth, and straight led in  
Chaste Eithné, gallant Cairbré, winsome Ailbhé,  
And these in utter rapture around him clinging  
The King embraced with tears and sobs of joy.

Thereafter Cormac and his queen and children  
Sat down to meat, and on the festal board  
A table-cloth of snowy silk was spread.  
“’Tis a full precious thing thou see’st before thee,  
O Cormac, son of Art,” saith Mananan ;  
“For never yet was food so delicate  
But thrice demanded of this charmèd cloth  
Straight stands thereon.” “Nay, that indeed is well,”

Quoth Cormac. Then the other smiling thrust  
His hand into his girdle and drew forth  
A golden cup and set it on his palm.

“A magic marvel is this cup of mine,  
Seeing no drink can be desired therefrom  
But look, the same leaps bubbling to its brim !”

“That too is well, O Mananan !” “Moreover,  
’Tis of the virtues of this magic cup  
That when a lying tale is told before it,  
Lo ! it lies broken. Tell a tale of truth,  
And on the instant it is whole again.”

“Let that be proved, O Mananan !” “Then give ear,  
O Cormac ! This thy wife I bore from thee  
In sooth hath had another husband since.”  
Therewith in pieces lay the fairy cup.

“A lying tale !” his princess answered him ;  
“Nor man nor woman hath she seen, save us  
And these her children dear.” That tale was true,  
And straight the fairy cup was whole again.

“Priceless possessions verily are these,  
O Mananan,” saith Cormac. “Thine henceforth,  
Two precious tokens, Cormac, of my friendship,  
To wit, the charmèd cloth and magic cup ;  
The Fairy Branch, moreover, treasure still.  
And now the banquet waits us, and believe

That hadst thou here an host in multitude  
Not one should miss of hospitable cheer.  
And in this cup I pledge thee, for I searched  
Thine inmost soul with spells, that thou and these  
Might share this joyful feast of fellowship."

Thereafterward they supped right royally ;  
For not a meat they thought on but that cloth  
Forthwith displayed, nor any drink desired  
But straight it sparkled in that magic cup.  
And for that fairy feast to Mananan  
The Four gave thanks exceeding, and arose  
And bade their Hosts good night, and laid them down  
On kingly couches richly strewn for them,  
And swiftly fell on slumber and sweet sleep,  
And where they woke upon the morrow morn  
Was in their pleasant palace Liathdrum.

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## BELTANE.

*(See NOTES.)*  

---

OH, mild May day, in Fōdla's clime  
Of fairy colour, the laughing prime  
Of leafy summer from year to year,  
I would that Leagha were with me here  
To lie and listen down in a dell  
To Banba's blackbirds warbling well,  
And her cuckoos crying with constant strain  
Welcome, welcome the bright Beltane ;  
When the swallows are skimming the shore,  
    And the swift steed stoops to the fountain,  
And the weak, fair bog-down grows on the moor,  
    And the heath spreads her hair on the mountain,  
And the signs of heaven are in consternation,  
    And the rushing planets such radiance pour,  
That the sea lies lulled, and the generation  
    Of flowers awakes once more.

---

## PATRICK AND OISIN.

(See NOTES.)

---

“ OISIN, Oisín, too long is thy slumber.

Oisín, arise, and give ear to the chant :

Thy force hath forsook thee, thy battles are over,

And without us, old man, thou would'st perish of want.”

“ My force hath forsook me, my battles are over ;

Since alas the famed empire of Finn is no more,

And without you indeed 'tis for want I should perish,

But since Finn sweetest music is music no more.”

“ Nay, silly old man, for all of thy vaunting,

Of the loud Dord-Finn chorus, the timpan and horn,

Thou hast never heard music like matin bells ringing,

Or solemn psalms sung in the still summer morn.”

“ Though greatly thou praisest the chants of the clerics,

I had rather lie listening down in the dale

To the voice of the cuckoo of Letter Lee calling ;

Or the very sweet thrushes of green Gleann-a-Sgail ;

“ Or the song of the blackbird of Derrycarn gushing  
So full and so free in the woods of the West ;  
(Oh, Patrick, no hymn under heaven could approach it !  
Ah, would that I only were under his nest !)

“ And I’d far liefer hearken the eagle’s fierce whistle,  
From lone Glennamoo or the Ridge by the stream,  
Or list the loud thunder of rushing Tra-Rury,  
Or catch on rough Irrus the seagull’s scream.

“ And I’d bid long goodbye to the bells of the clerics,  
Could I once again follow o’er mountain and moor  
The tune of the twelve fleetest wolf hounds of Erin  
Let loose with their faces away from the Suir.

“ And Cnu, little Cnu of my bosom, where art thou ?  
O small fairy dwarf, to the Finians so dear,  
Whose harp ever soothed all our sorrows to slumber,  
Ah, Cnu, little Cnu, how I would you were here.

“ Where is now your betrothed one, oh, Cnu, where is Blathna  
Who stood up in beauty to sing when you played ;  
For the mouth of no mortal such sweetness could utter,  
As the soft, rosy mouth of that magical maid.”





## CUCULLAIN'S LAMENT OVER FERDIAH.

---

OH, mightiest of the host of Maev,  
Ferdiah, sweetest mouth of song,  
Heroic arm most swift and strong  
To slaughter or to save.

O curls, O softly rustling wreath  
Of yellow curls that round him rolled,  
One beauteous belt of glistening gold,—  
Who laid you low in death?

Blue eyes that beamed with friendship bright  
Upon me through the battle press,  
Or o'er the mimic field of chess,—  
Who quenched your kingly light?

Alas, Ferdiah, overthrown  
By this red hand at last you fell!  
My bosom's brother, was it well?  
Ochone, ochone, ochone!

THE SONG OF THE FAIRY KING.

---

QUEEN of women, oh come away,  
Come to my kingdom strange to see ;  
Where tresses flow with a golden glow,  
And white as snow is the fair body.

Under the arching of ebon brows,  
Eyes of azure the soul enthal,  
And a speech of songs to the mouth belongs,  
And sorrowful sighing shall ne'er befall.

Bright are the blooms of Innisfail,  
Green her forests wave in the west :  
But brighter flowers and greener bowers  
Shall all be ours in that country blest.

Can her streams compare to the runnels rare  
Of yellow honey and rosy wine  
That softly slip to the longing lip  
With magic flow through that land of mine ?

We roam the earth in its grief and mirth,  
But move unseen of all therein,  
For before their gaze there hangs a haze,  
The heavy haze of their mortal sin.

But our age wastes not, our beauty tastes not  
Evil's apple nor droops nor dies ;  
Death slays us never, but love for ever  
With stainless ardour illumines our eyes.

Then, queen of women, oh come away,  
Come and sit on my fairy throne,  
In a realm of rest with spirits blest,  
Where sin and sorrow are all unknown.

---

O'CURNAN'S SONG.

---

O MARY bhan asthore,  
That through my bosom's core  
Hast pierced me past the Isle of Fōdla's healing ;  
By Heaven, 'tis my belief,  
Had you but known my grief,  
Long since to me with succour you'd been stealing.

With tears the night I waste ;  
No food by day I taste,  
But wander weak and silent as a shadow !  
Ah ! if I may not find  
My Mary true and kind,  
My mother soon must weep, a sonless widow.

I know not night from day :  
"Cuckoo !" the thrushes say !  
But how can it be May in dark December ?  
My friends look strange and wild ;  
But hasten, Mary mild,  
And well my heart its mistress shall remember.

No herb or skill of hand  
My cure can now command,  
From you, O Flower of Love, alone I'll seek it ;  
Then hasten, hasten here,  
My own and only dear,  
And in your secret ear I'll softly speak it.

One sweet kiss from your mouth  
Would quench my burning drouth,  
And lift me back to life ; ah ! yield it to me ;  
Or make for me my bed  
Among the mouldering dead,  
Where the winding worms may crawl and channel through me.

Ah ! better buried so  
Than like a ghost to go,  
All music, dance, and sport with sighs forsaking ;  
A witless, wandering man  
For the love of Mary bhan,  
With the heart within my bosom slowly breaking.

---

CAOINE.

---

COLD, dark, and dumb lies my boy on his bed ;  
Cold, dark, and silent the night dews are shed ;  
Hot, swift, and fierce fall my tears for the dead !

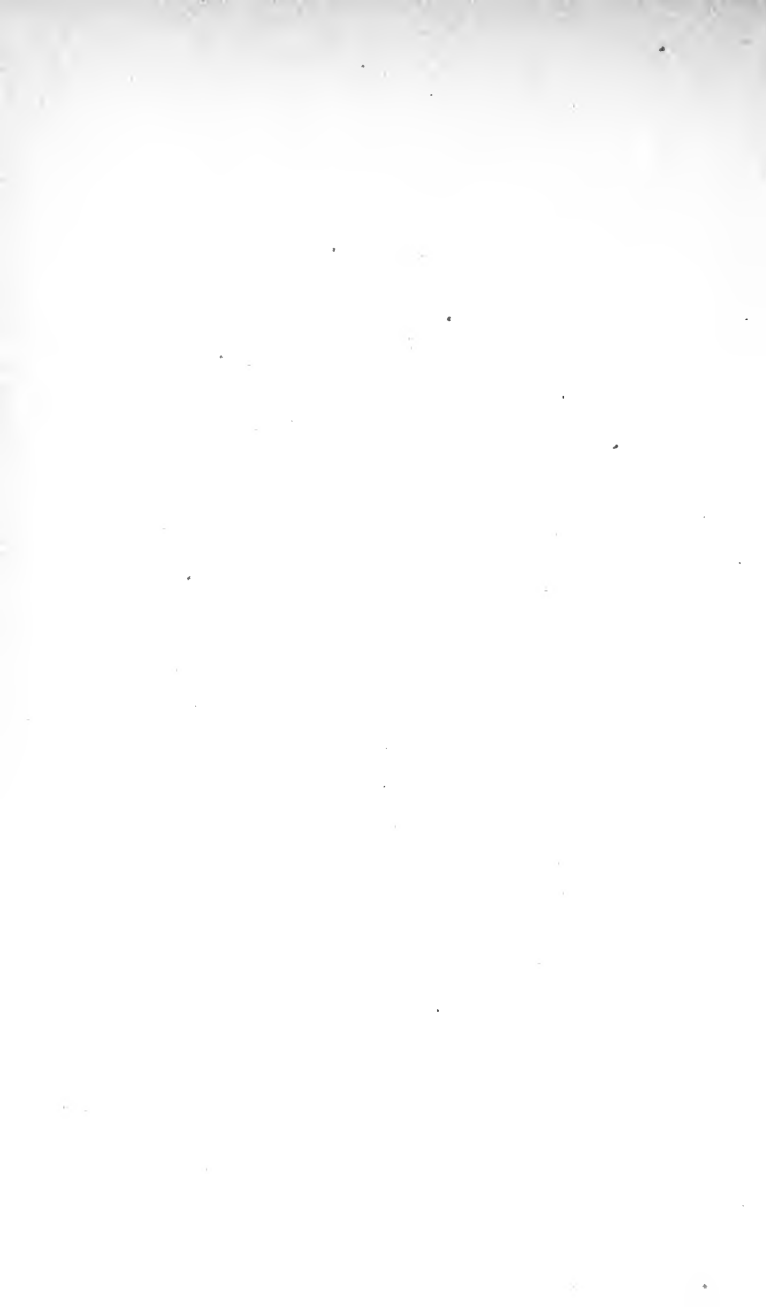
His footprints lay light in the dew of the dawn  
As the straight, slender track of the young mountain fawn  
But I'll ne'er again follow them over the lawn.

His manly cheek blushed with the sun's rising ray,  
And he shone in his strength like the sun at midday ;  
But a cloud of black darkness has hid him away.

And that black cloud for ever shall cling to the skies :  
And never, ah, never, I'll see him arise,  
Lost warmth of my bosom, lost light of my eyes !

---

SONGS AND SKETCHES.





## S O N G .

---

SOME go smiling through the grey time,

Under naked, songless bowers :

Some go mourning all the May time,

'Mid the laughing leaves and flowers.

Why is this,

Rosy Bliss

Comes to kiss Winter grey?

Why, ah ! why

Doth Sorrow sigh

On the lap of lovely May?

Happy Love, with song and smiling,

Through the withered woodland goes :

Hapless Love hath no beguiling

From the redbreast or the rose.

This is why

Woods may sigh,

Flowers die and hearts be gay :

    This, alas !

    The piteous pass

That leaves us mourning all the May.

---

## FROM THE RED ROSE.

---

FROM the red rose to the apple-blossom,  
From the apple-blossom to the blue sky,  
Looking up still in the spring-tide,  
When none else is by,  
For a love born  
On a May morn,  
Long, long ago, I sigh.

From the blue sky to the apple-blossom,  
And the roses in row,  
Looking down still in the spring-tide,  
Through my garden I go,  
For a love lost  
In a spring frost,  
Singing Heigh ho, heigh ho !

---

## O BRANCH OF FRAGRANT BLOSSOM.

---

O BRANCH of fragrant blossom,  
How the heart in my bosom  
Lay heaving before you with hopeless sigh ;  
Till your voice grew low and tender,  
And a soft, love-lit splendour  
Shone out to save me from your dark, dreamy eye.

O branch of rosy blossom,  
Radiant bride of my bosom,  
My heart heaves no longer with hopeless sigh ;  
For you 're the blessed shadow  
Upon my burning meadow,  
My sunshine in winter, and my love till I die.

---

## ONE LOVING SMILE.

---

O, WHITE and red,  
Above your head  
The arbutus flowers and berries grow ;  
And underneath  
The blushing heath  
I've found for luck the heath of snow ;  
And sure 'tis fine  
The foamy line  
That laughs across the purple bay ;  
But, ah, let slip  
From your ripe lip  
One loving smile, and where are they ?

---

SNOW DRIFT.

---

SIGH on, sad wind,  
O'er hill and forest,  
With thee my spirit  
Would fain go forth :  
Thus unconfined,  
When grief was sorest,  
I should inherit  
The dreary north.

With thee I'd sail  
On viewless pinion  
O'er snowy spaces  
Where man is not ;  
And all things wail  
The frost's dominion,  
And summer's graces  
Are all forgot.

For my great grief,  
All solace scorning,

Abhors the heaven  
She's left a hell :  
O'er flower and leaf,  
The purple morning,  
The golden even,  
She spreads a spell.

Till human speech  
Seems false and hollow—  
In man and woman  
God's image lost.  
Then I beseech  
That I may follow  
To haunts inhuman  
Of snow and frost.

More true and chaste,  
Thou bitter Norland,  
Than southern languor,  
Hot-blooded jars ;  
Thy wintry waste,  
Thy solemn foreland,  
Aurora's anger  
Amongst the stars.

Sigh on, sad wind,  
O'er hill and forest,  
With thee my spirit  
Would fain go forth ;  
Thus unconfined,  
When grief was sorest,  
I should inherit  
The dreary north.

---



## SHAMROCK LEAVES.

---

OH ! if for every tear  
That from our exiled eyes  
Has fallen, Erin dear,  
A shamrock could arise,  
We'd weave a garland green  
Should stretch the ocean through,  
All, all the way between  
Our aching hearts and you !

---

SNOW STAINS.

---

THE snow had fallen, and fallen from heaven,  
Unnoticed in the night,  
As o'er the sleeping sons of God  
Floated the manna white ;  
And still though small flowers crystalline  
Blanched all the earth beneath,  
Angels with busy hands above  
Renewed the airy wreath ;  
When, white amid the falling flakes,  
And fairer far than they,  
Beside her wintry casement hoar  
A dying woman lay.  
“ More pure than yonder virgin snow  
From God comes gently down  
I left my happy country home,”  
She sighed, “ to seek the town.  
More foul than yonder drift shall turn,  
Before the sun is high,  
Down-trodden and defiled of men,  
More foul,” she wept, “ am I.

Yet, as in midday might confessed,  
Thy good sun's face of fire  
Draws the chaste spirit of the snow.  
To meet him from the mire,  
Lord, from this leprous life in death  
Lift me, Thy Magdalene,  
That rapt into Redeeming Light  
I may once more be clean."

---

A SONG OF THE SEASONS.

---

OH ! the Spring's delight  
Is the cowslip bright,  
As she laughs to the warbling linnet,  
And a whistling thrush  
On a white May bush,  
And his mate on her nest within it.

Summer she shows  
Her rose, her rose !  
And oh ! all the happy night long  
The nightingale woos her ;  
At dawn the lark sues her,  
With the crystal surprise of his song.

King Autumn's crown  
Is the barley brown,  
Red over with rosy fruit ;  
And the yellow trees,  
As they sigh in the breeze,  
Are the strings of his solemn lute.

Old Winter's breath  
Is cold as death,  
'Tis lonesome he's left the earth;  
Yet the thrush he sings,  
And the rose she springs  
From the flame of his fairy hearth.

---

MAUREEN.

---

BLUE eyes 'mid ebon lashes lost,  
Gold hair o'er silver shoulders tossed,  
Lips crimson coral ivory-crossed—  
Maureen !

To-day to confidence beguiled ;  
To-morrow haughty, wayward, wild ;  
A woman half and half a child—  
Maureen.

---

## SPRING'S SECRETS.

---

As once I paused on poet wing  
In the green heart of a grove,  
I met the Spirit of the Spring,  
With her great eyes lit of Love.

She took me gently by the hand,  
And whispered in my anxious ear  
Secrets none may understand,  
Till she make their meaning clear :

“ Why the primrose looks so pale ;  
Why the rose is set with thorns ;  
Why the magic nightingale  
Through the darkness mourns and mourns.”

She ceased : a leafy murmur sighed  
Softly through the listening trees.  
Anon she uttered, eager-eyed,  
These her joyful mysteries :

“ How the angels, as they pass  
With their vesture pure and white  
O'er the shadowy garden grass,  
Touch the lilies into light :

“ Or with hidden hands of love  
Guide the throstle's wavering wings,  
But show their faces bright above,  
Only where the skylark sings.”

---



THE REJECTED LOVER.

---

ON Innisfallen's fairy isle,  
Amid the blooming bushes,  
We leant upon the lover's stile,  
And listened to the thrushes ;  
When first I sighed to see her smile,  
And smiled to see her blushes.

Her hair was bright as beaten gold,  
And soft as spider's spinning ;  
Her cheek out-bloomed the apple old  
That set our parents sinning ;  
And in her eyes you might behold  
My joys and griefs beginning.

In Innisfallen's fairy grove  
I hushed my happy wooing,  
To listen to the brooding dove  
Amid the branches cooing ;  
But oh ! how short those hours of love,  
How long their bitter rueing !

Poor cushat thy complaining breast  
With woe like mine is heaving ;  
With thee I mourn a fruitless quest,  
For ah ! with art deceiving,  
The cuckoo-bird has robbed my nest,  
And left me wildly grieving.

---

## THE BEAUTIFUL BAY.

(A CADENCE OF KENMARE RIVER.)

---

I LIFTED mine eyes and beheld him lying, that Harper old,  
on the green sea-grass,  
And I said in my heart, "I will rise and seek a lonelier  
spot, O mother dear ;  
For this thy sea and these thy woods, and those thy violet  
hills and vales,  
At the coming of others, estrange from my soul all their  
low, sweet communings."  
So I arose. Now he spake no word, but he glanced a  
glance, and his spirit met mine,  
And swifter than speech, and surer far, thus he answered  
my secret thought.  
"Avoid not ! I hush not her rich revealings, for I am hers,  
aye, even as thou ;  
Avoid not, for surely she drew us together, her dearest  
children, for only this,—  
To breathe to us both some tenderer tidings than ever she  
whispered each soul apart."

I looked in his face, and I believed the eloquent blue of  
the old man's eye,  
And I knew, by the ruddy rose of his cheek, and the full,  
white flower of his flowing hair,  
A son, indeed, of Nature's love. I looked, and I loved  
him for her sake,  
And returned again to my seat in silence, and side by side  
on the soft sea-grass,  
With the bluest blue of heaven above us, we sat at gaze  
on the Beautiful Bay.  
Gazing, gazing, oh delight ! for the sea-turn blew from the  
ocean beyond,  
And ever before his full, sweet voice the Arbutus Islands,  
for utter joy,  
Shivered in every sparkling leaf, and called, " He comes !"  
to the wooing waves.  
And these leaped back with a silver laugh, and cried it to  
all of their crystal clan,  
And the white smile spread, and hither and thither, with  
dark, swift fingers pointed to shore  
The wind-flaws darted o'er the dreaming azure, and the  
ripples danced after in a diamond dance,  
And nearer and nearer the rapture ran, till the cool air  
kissed on the craving cheek.

O breathing balm ! O sweet sea-spice ! O wind of the west,  
that most I love !

Now the Sea had risen, and wrestled and lost and wrestled  
and won with the struggling Shore

For the golden spoils they win and lose with the Moon  
above for arbitress ;

Till only one thin, red torque remained for Ocean's  
triumphant conquering.

Then the sea-turn fluttered with fainting wings, fluttered,  
fluttered, failed, and fell ;

And the Sun strode down from mountain to mountain,  
kissing their foreheads with his farewell kiss

To a happy rose that flushed through heaven, and thrilled  
and trembled out of sight,

Then the sweet night fell, and the soft stars shone, and we  
sang, " Good night !" to the Beautiful Bay.

---

AMBROSE AND UNA.

---

IT was the good Sir Ambrose  
Came spurring to the sea,  
And to woo the beauteous Una  
From his castle high rode he.

They plighted their troth together,  
And sealed it with seals of gold,  
But a month and a day thereafter  
The good knight slept in the mould.

Now, alas ! for the Lady Una,  
She made such bitter moan  
That the dead Sir Ambrose heard her  
From his grave in the churchyard lone.

Up rose the dead Sir Ambrose,  
All in his shroud of white,  
And to his true love's bower  
Stole softly through the night.

He tapped at his true love's bower,  
With his hand so long and thin ;  
" I pray thee, dearest Una,  
Let thy loving bridegroom in."

But his dear lady answered,  
" I cannot ope the door  
Till Jesu's name thou namest,  
As thou wast wont before."

" Rise, oh ! rise, dear Una,  
Nor fear to unbar the door ;  
I can name the blessed Jesu  
As I was wont before."

Up rose the weeping Una,  
And her bower opened wide,  
And the dead Sir Ambrose entered  
And sat by her bedside.

With her golden comb his true love  
Combed out his tresses dear,  
And each fair lock, as she kissed it,  
She bathed with the bitter tear.

And "Oh ! tell me, dearest Ambrose,  
By thy Una's love," she said,  
"How fares it since they laid thee  
In thy dark and lonesome bed ?"

"Whenever thy sorrow, Una,  
Is soothed in sacred prayer,  
Forthwith my gloomy coffin  
Is filled with roses fair.

"But whenever, oh ! my Una,  
Thy grief is wild and loud,  
Those soft and fragrant roses  
Turn to tears upon my shroud.

"Dost hear the red cock crowing ?  
I must no longer stay ;  
'Tis the hour the churchyard claims us,  
The sad hour before the day."

So the good Sir Ambrose turned him,  
Deep sighing from the door,  
And to the lonely churchyard  
Went silently once more.



But Una followed after,  
And clasped her true love's hand,  
And forth they fared together  
To the dark and dreadful land.

They could not speak for sorrow ;  
The grave too soon was nigh ;  
And Sir Ambrose' fair hair faded  
As flames to ashes die.

Till, as they stood together,  
Where the dead man's tomb was made,  
Whilst his cheeks grew wan and hollow,  
Sir Ambrose faintly said :

“ Look up to the sky, my Una,  
For my moments swiftly fail ;  
Look up and tell me truly  
Is this the dawning pale ? ”

She turned her sad face from him  
Toward the coming light,  
When straight the good Sir Ambrose  
Softly melted from her sight.

To her bower went poor Una,  
And prayed to Jesu blest,  
That ere the year was over  
She, too, might be at rest.

But the month and the day thereafter  
Upon her bier she lay,  
And now, with good Sir Ambrose,  
Awaits the Judgment Day.

---

## ORPHEUS TO PLUTO.

---

OH Thou, whom alone of Immortals  
But to name is a fear among men,  
Through the gloom of whose terrible portals  
Is no turning again,  
When, ghost after ghost, to thy regions  
Unlovely to flee we are fain,  
As the wild winter-swans flock in legions  
Remote o'er the main !

I come not with insult Titanic  
To thy consort as Tityos came,  
Whom to Lust, a perpetual panic,  
Thy retributive flame  
At her feet laid immense in his anguish ;  
Nor clothed on with Herakles' might,  
Am I here thy Three-headed to vanquish,  
Dread Monarch of Night !

I, alas, am that Orpheus ill-fortuned,  
Who with song, in his pleasant youth flown,  
Wooed flowers from waste places, importuned  
Clear streams from the stone ;  
And with magic maturer united  
Man to man in the graces of art,  
Till Eros drew bow, and delighted  
Two souls with his smart.

Spring sisterly smiled on my wooing,  
Summer motherly welcomed my wife ;  
But a foe, Autumn entered, subduing  
All sweetness of life.  
For alas, like a pure lily-blossom  
Transfixed by the brier of the brake,  
She has fallen, the bride of my bosom,  
A spoil to the snake—

Evil beast, that for slaughter lay slunken  
Subtle-eyed at the shadowy ford,  
What time, scarce escaped from the drunken  
Unchaste Honey-Lord,  
Up the slope of the Hebrus she hurried,  
Witless quite of a new foe beneath,

Till his fangs in her fair flesh he buried—  
The darter of Death.

Grief-distraught by her side on the morrow,  
With rent raiment and locks dust-defiled,  
Low I lay, till there stole on my sorrow  
The voice of a child.

“Take comfort, sad son of Apollo !  
Arise, nothing fearing, and lay  
Thy hand to thy lute-strings, and follow,  
For Love leads the way.”

From the corse my despairful clasp sunders ;  
Hope-flushed the dear harp I invade ;  
Earth shakes at the sound, the air thunders,  
And the deeps are dismayed.  
Yea ! the Day Sire above thee, thy brother,  
Tellus old, and the Lord of the Main,  
Weird laughter with strange sighings smother,  
Mirth with moanings of pain ;

Whilst a God to thine awful dominion  
Greatly guided my feet from above,  
The All-wise, All-pervasive-of-pinion,  
Omnipotent Love !

On we fared ! Orcus opened to list us !

On we fared ! Death herself dropped a tear !  
Charon, Cerberus, may not resist us,  
And unharmed we are here.

Now, O King, for the cause of our mission

Thou hast heard ; knowing also the worth  
Of the lost one, at Love's own petition  
Redeem her to earth !—

Love, who steered thy black steeds to the meadows  
Of Enna, and won thee the bride,  
Who now queens it o'er congregate shadows,  
Enthroned at thy side !—

Love, the ally, through whom thou prolongest  
Bliss supreme in these joyless abodes !  
Love ! Love ! still the weakest, the strongest,  
Eldest, youngest of Gods !

---

SONG : TO E. P.

---

WHEN our little Queen was born,  
Winter first with furious pother  
Flew to fix his icy scorn  
On the infant and the mother.

But in such a loving fashion  
Side by side he found them laid,  
That to pity all his passion  
Melting quite, he softly said :

“ Child and mother sleep unharmed !  
See how vanquished by your beauty  
Winter’s dreadful self disarmed  
Kneels to do you dearest duty.”

Then a courser blast bestriding,  
Winter waved his wild adieu,  
And the gentle spring came guiding  
To the couch her zephyrs blue.

Leaning there, the imperial maid,  
From the crystal car that bore her,  
Lightly her flower-sceptre laid  
On the lovely babe before her,

Whisp'ring, "Since thy wiles have driven  
Winter from my budding bowers,  
Every grace I e'er have given,  
Mortal maiden, shall be yours.

"See ! I touch with violets two  
Lisa's lids, in token tender  
Of the eyes of modest blue  
That shall most enchantment lend her.

"Next I lay these mountain daisies,  
Clustering close with crimson tips  
Round their petals' pearly graces,  
For a sign on Lisa's lips.

"Now her tiny cheek I tint  
With this trailing apple blossom,  
And these snowdrops for a hint  
Drop into her dainty bosom.



“Last for Lisa’s heart this pansy !”

Here she stooped and whispering spoke,  
Ere she sped, so fond a fancy  
That our Lisa smiling woke.

---

CHOOSING A PROFESSION.

---

“WHEN Robin’s a big man, what will wee Robin be ? ”  
So he peeped, half afraid,  
From the cozy little nest that in mother’s gown he’d made,  
Our plump, rosy Robin, he peeped out and said :

“ A sailor I will be,  
To sail upon the sea,  
But papa and mamma, won’t you sail along with me ? ”

“ No ! the captain of the ship wouldn’t let mamma sail,  
He’d only take me.”

“ Then oh ! what a cruel man the captain must be,  
Not to take my dear mamma to sail upon the sea.

So, papa, I’ll be instead,

A soldier all in red,

With a sword in my hand and a helmet on my head—

“And I’ll fight, fight, fight, for papa and for mamma.”  
“But if you were killed?” “Then I’d fly  
Far away above the clouds O, so, so high,  
Till I came to our Father on his throne in the sky,  
And ask to be instead  
Of a soldier all in red,  
An angel all in white to keep watch beside your bed.”

---

MYRTILLA.

---

MYRTILLA boasts a marble brow  
By ebon tresses softly swept,  
Myrtilla's mouth is Cupid's bow  
In rosy nectar newly dipped,  
And heaven's own azure lights her eyes,  
Her cheek bids roses blush in vain ;  
Say, shall the lovely nymph surprise  
This bosom with her conquering chain ?

Nay, I mistrust the studied skill  
That twines her tresses' silken snare ;  
The honied sigh her lips distil  
Is heaved with too consummate care ;  
Her eyes, with all too amorous art,  
Now shun, and now upon me shine ;  
Too well thou hast rehearsed thy part,  
Myrtilla, ever to be mine !

---

## LOVE'S SURPRISE.

---

HE sang as he lay on Mangerton mountain,  
That Irish knight who had never known love,  
“What song so sweet as the chiming fountain?  
What blue so blue as the heaven above?”  
Fond heart ! for nearer and nearer drew  
A sweeter voice and an eye more blue.

“O what can blush by the purple heather?  
What gold with the gorse-flower dare compare?”  
He turned, fond heart, and found them together,  
On her glowing cheek and her glittering hair.  
Now what for the knight are the hill-flower’s dyes,  
The fountain’s voice and the sapphire skies?

She had lost her path, that lovely lady,  
Whose heart had never a lord confessed;  
O bright she blushed, and gently prayed he  
Would guide her over the mountain crest;  
And little loth was the gallant knight  
To squire the steps of that lady bright.

So he took her hand, and they passed together,  
The knight and the lady unlearned of love,  
Through the golden gorse and the purple heather—  
O laughingly beamed the blue above,  
And the fountain sang as their feet went by,  
The sibyl fountain, "*For aye, for aye.*"

---

AMŒBÆAN.

---

HE.

THE sky has lost the happy lustre  
It borrowed from her azure eyes,  
The unruly winds around me bluster,  
Unsoftened by her balmy sighs,  
And for my true love's loss alone  
The thronging town's a desert grown.

SHE.

Along the glen and o'er the heather,  
With spring's return once more I stray  
Through scenes where oft we've roved together  
At rosy dawn and gloaming grey ;  
But all these former haunts of bliss,  
Love, without thee their beauty miss !

HE.

By arch triumphal, lordly tower,  
With thoughts like these I soothe my way—

“What sculptured flower could match her bower  
With wreaths of living roses gay?  
And piles superb, and courtly hall,  
For her sweet cot I'd change you all.”

SHE.

Now blooms each freshest, fairest blossom,  
By woodland wild and garden wall,  
Yet pressed unto this aching bosom,  
These faint blue stars are worth them all.  
For being too sad to speak the thought,  
With these he sighed, “Forget me not.”

HE.

In art supreme, around us, o'er us,  
Sweet Southern voices rise and float,  
Or swells sublime the lofty chorus,  
Or dies on one voluptuous note—  
But how can mimic transports move,  
After her unfeigned words of love?

SHE.

Let skylarks spring to meet the morrow  
With lays of jubilant delight,



And Philomela's voice of sorrow

Most passionate plead the livelong night :

If of sweet music I have choice,

Waft me one echo of his voice.

HE.

Oh ! what are city pomp and pride,

If Celia be not by my side ?

SHE.

Oh ! would that I my way might win

To that sweet town he sojourns in !

---

LOVE'S SONG.

---

Love is a boundless bliss :  
All they who share it  
With lover's look and lover's kiss,  
Surely shall declare it.

Love is a precious pain :  
No skill can heal it,  
When they who sigh but sigh in vain  
In their hearts conceal it.

Love with the crown of life  
His king and queen covers,  
When gallant man and gentle wife  
Still are steadfast lovers.

Ah ! and when envious Death  
One life shall smother,  
Love with his willow-wreath  
Crowns that constant other.

Young men and maids, for love  
    Seek, till ye find it,  
And having found, win Heaven above  
    About your hearts to bind it.

---

COMPANIONS.

---

SMILE farewell to Sorrow :  
Give to Joy good-morrow :  
And charge him to continue  
A quiet reign within you.

Smile farewell to Gladness,  
Take the hand of Sadness,  
And wistfully beseech her  
To be your tender teacher.

So shall both befriend you,  
And to the grave attend you ;  
There Sorrow from you sever,  
Joy go with you ever.

---

## GOOD NIGHT.

---

Good night ! good night ! our feast is ended,  
By young and old with smiles attended ;  
Where Wit and Worth and Beauty blended,  
To speed the hours with dance and song.

Beauty's smile  
Free from guile,  
Wit that shone  
Wounding none :  
And manly Worth and Woman true,  
Good night ! and joy go home with you.

Good night ! and may your minstrel's numbers  
Still echo on amid your slumbers,  
To spell-bind every care that cumber  
The lover's heart, the mother's breast.  
Beauty, Mirth,  
Wit and Worth

Fall to sleep  
Calm and deep,  
Nor rouse, till rosy Morrow call,  
“Awake, and joy go with you all !”

---

MUSIC

## NOTE.

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*Of the following Irish airs only those specified in the Notes at the end of this volume have been harmonised and published as songs to my words.*

*Allowance should therefore be made in the case of the other poems in the Musical Appendix, which, though occasionally altered to suit the music better, doubtless, here and there require some further modification for the purposes of modern vocalisation.*

A. P. G.



## THE LITTLE RED LARK.



Oh, swan of slenderness,  
Dove of tenderness,  
Jewel of joys, arise!  
The little red lark  
Like a rosy spark  
Of song to his sunburst flies.  
But till thou art risen  
Earth is a prison  
Full of my lonesome sighs;  
Then awake and discover  
To thy fond lover  
The morn of thy matchless eyes!

The dawn is dark to me;  
Hark! oh, hark to me,  
Pulse of my heart, I pray!  
And out of thy hiding  
With blushes gliding,  
Dazzle me with thy day.  
Ah, then, once more to thee  
Flying I'll pour to thee  
Passion so sweet and gay,  
The lark shall listen,  
And dewdrops glisten,  
Laughing on every spray.

## LOVE'S WISHES.



Would I were Erin's apple-blossom o'er you,  
 Or Erin's rose in all its beauty blown,  
 To drop my richest petals down before you,  
 Within the garden where you walk alone;  
 In hope you'd turn and pluck a little posy,  
 With loving fingers through my foliage pressed,  
 And kiss it close and set it blushing rosy  
 To sigh out all its sweetness on your breast.

Would I might take the pigeon's flight towards you,  
 And perch beside your window-pane above,  
 And murmur how my heart of hearts it hoards you,  
 O hundred thousand treasures of my love;  
 In hope you'd stretch your slender hand and take me,  
 And smooth my wildly-fluttering wings to rest,  
 And lift me to your loving lips and make me  
 My bower of blisses in your loving breast.

## I ONCE LOVED A BOY.



I once loved a boy, and a bold Irish boy,  
 Far away in the hills of the West ;  
 Ah ! the love of that boy was my jewel of joy,  
 And I built him a bower in my breast,  
     In my breast ;  
 And I built him a bower in my breast.

I once loved a boy, and I trusted him true,  
 And I built him a bower in my breast ;  
 But away, wirrasthru ! the rover he flew,  
 And robbed my poor heart of its rest,  
     Of its rest ;  
 And robbed my poor heart of its rest.

The spring-time returns, and the sweet speckled thrush  
 Murmurs soft to his mate on her nest,  
 But for ever there's fallen a sorrowful hush  
 O'er the bower that I built in my breast,  
     In my breast ;  
 O'er the desolate bower in my breast.

## HUSH SONG.



I would hush my lovely laddo,  
 In the green arbutus' shadow,  
 O'er the fragrant, flowering meadow,  
 In the smiling spring-time.  
*Shoheen sho lo, Shoheen hoo lo !*

I'd hush my boy beside the fountain,  
 By the soothing, silvery fountain,  
 On the pleasant, purple mountain,  
 In the sultry summer.  
*Shoheen sho lo, Shoheen hoo lo !*

I would smooth my darling's pillow,  
 By the blue Atlantic billow,  
 On the shores of Parknasilla,  
 In the golden autumn.  
*Shoheen sho lo, Shoheen hoo lo !*

I would soothe my child to slumber,  
 By the rosy, rustling ember,  
 Through the days of dark December,  
 In the stormy winter.  
*Shoheen sho lo, Shoheen hoo lo !*

May no cruel fairy charm thee !  
 May no dread banshee alarm thee !  
 Flood, nor fire, nor sickness harm thee !  
 Winter, spring, and summer,—  
 Summer, autumn, winter,  
*Shoheen sho lo, Shoheen hoo lo !*

## THE FOGGY DEW.



Oh ! a wan cloud was drawn  
 O'er the dim, weeping dawn,  
 As to Shannon's side I returned at last ;  
 And the heart in my breast  
 For the girl I loved best  
 Was beating—ah beating, how loud and fast !  
 While the doubts and the fears  
 Of the long, aching years  
 Seemed mingling their voices with the moaning flood ;  
 Till full in my path,  
 Like a wild water-wraith,  
 My true love's shadow lamenting stood.

But the sudden sun kissed  
 The cold, cruel mist  
 Into dancing showers of diamond dew ;  
 The dark flowing stream  
 Laughed back to his beam,  
 And the lark soared singing aloft in the blue ;  
 While no phantom of night,  
 But a form of delight  
 Ran with arms outspread to her darling boy :  
 And the girl I love best  
 On my wild, throbbing breast  
 Hid her thousand treasures, with a cry of joy.

## THE CONFESSION.



A lovely lass with modest mien  
 Stole out one morning early ;  
 The dew-drops glancing o'er the green  
 Made all her pathway pearly.  
 Young Lawrence struck with Cupid's dart,—  
 Cupid's dart distressing,—  
 As through the fields he saw her start,  
 Sighed, "She's gone confessing !  
 O vo ! 'twould ease *my* heart  
 To earn the father's blessing."

The Father, with a twinkling eye,  
 He watched my boyo cunning,  
 Unnoticed by his colleen's eye  
 Behind the bushes running.  
 "How well," he laughed, "young Lawrence there,  
 After all my pressing,  
 With his sweetheart, I declare,  
 Comes at last confessing.  
 Oho ! I'll just take care  
 To give the lad a lesson."

The pleasant priest unbarred the door,  
As solemn as a shadow,  
“How slow,” cried he, “you’ve come before,  
How hot-foot now, my laddo.  
The serious steal with looks sedate,  
Seeking to be shriven,  
But you, you’re in no fitting state  
Now to be forgiven,  
So go within and wait  
With all your thoughts on heaven.”

The fair one following in a while  
Made out her faults with meekness ;  
The priest then asked her with a smile  
Had she no other weakness,  
And led with that young Lawrence in ;  
Her cheeks were now confessing.  
“Well, since ’tis after all a sin  
Easy of redressing,  
Here, dear, I’d best begin  
To give you both my blessing.”

## MAUREEN, MAUREEN !



Oh ! Maureen, Maureen, have you forgotten  
 The fond confession that you made to me,  
 While round us fluttered the white bog cotton,  
 And o'er us waved the wild arbutus tree ?  
 Like bits of sky bo-peeping through the bower,  
 No sooner were your blue eyes sought than flown,  
 Till white and fluttering as the cotton flower  
 Your slender hand it slipped into my own.

Oh ! Maureen, Maureen, do you remember  
 The faithful promise that you pledged to me  
 The night we parted in black December  
 Beneath the tempest-tossed arbutus tree,  
 When faster than the drops from heaven flowing  
 Your heavy tears they showered with ceaseless start,  
 And wilder than the storm-wind round us blowing  
 Your bitter sobs they smote upon my heart ?



Oh ! Maureen, Maureen, for your love only  
I left my father and mother dear ;  
Within the churchyard they're lying lonely,  
'Tis from their tombstone I've travelled here.  
Their only son, you sent me o'er the billow,  
Ochone ! though kneeling they implored me stay ;  
They sickened with no child to smooth their pillow ;  
They died. Are you as dead to me as they ?

Oh ! Maureen, must then the love I bore you—  
Seven lonesome summers of longing trust—  
Turn like the fortune I've gathered for you,  
Like treacherous fairy treasure, into dust ?  
But Maureen bawn asthore, your proud lips quiver ;  
Into your scornful eyes the tears they start ;  
Your rebel hand returns to mine for ever ;  
Oh ! Maureen, Maureen, never more we'll part.

## WHEN I ROSE IN THE MORNING.



When I rose in the morning,  
 My heart full of woe,  
 I implored all the song birds  
 Why their mates on the bough  
 To their pleading gave heeding,  
 While Kate still said "No ;"  
 But they made no kind answer  
 To a heart full of woe.

Till the wood-quest at noon,  
 From the forest below,  
 He taught me his secret  
 So tender and low  
 Of stealing fond feeling  
 With sweet notes of woe,  
 Coo-cooing so soft  
 Through the green leafy row.

The long shadows fell,  
 And the sun he sank low,  
 And again I was pleading  
 In the mild evening glow :  
 "Ah ! Kitty, have pity !"  
 Then how could she say "No."  
 So for ever I'm free  
 From a heart full of woe.

'TIS A PITY I CAN'T SEE MY LOVE.



On his flute of gold the blackbird bold,  
Love's tale to his melting mate has told,  
And now the thieves have started ;  
And o'er the ground, in fluttering round,  
Enamoured fly, whilst you and I  
In lonesome pain are parted.

But when hearts beat true through the night of sorrow,  
They're blest the more when the magic morrow  
Its rosy ray has darted.

Fortune may wave her wings and fly,  
But she'll flutter back again by and by,  
And crown the constant-hearted.

These birds that pair in the April air  
Forget their faith on the branches bare,  
By autumn blasts affrighted,  
And to fresh loves sing with the start of spring ;  
When you and I with a golden ring  
In joy shall be united.

For when hearts beat true through the night of sorrow,  
They're blest the most when the marriage morrow

Its lamp of love has lighted.  
Fortune may wave her wings and fly,  
But she'll flutter back to us by and by,  
And crown the troth we've plighted.

## WITH THE NORTH.



With lip contemptuous curling,  
She cried, "Is our flag above  
Fold on fold unfurling,  
And Patrick pleading love?  
Oh! yes, when patriots hand in hand  
Unite to free their foster-land  
From slavery's accursed band,  
What true man woos a woman?  
Then with my bitter scorning  
Go, live and die a slave,  
Or in the morning  
March out with the brave."

"We'll steal a march on sorrow,"  
He sighed, our Captain grey,  
"Sound the drum to-morrow  
Before the dawn of day."  
But ere the drum's first muffled beat  
The women crowded down the street,  
How many never more to meet  
Their death-devoted heroes.  
Thus as we left the city  
My proud one weeping came  
Full of sweet pity,  
And blessed, and blessed my name.

Oh ! have you seen Atlantic  
Advance his green, resistless line  
Against the cliffs gigantic,  
And bury them in brine ?  
Thus on our stubborn foe we fell,  
Death's lightning darting from our steel,  
Whilst round us every cannon peal  
A hero's requiem thundered !  
And still with forward faces  
Went down our dauntless men,  
And still to their places  
As gallant hearts stepped in.

Till to a sunburst glorious,  
That all the field of battle fired,  
Before our van victorious  
The sullen South retired.  
Then peace returned, and from the war  
Our banner bright with many a star  
'Twas mine to flutter from afar  
In triumph to our city ;  
Till I at last could wreath it  
Around my true love's heart,  
And we kissed beneath it,  
Oh ! never more to part.



## JENNY, I'M NOT JESTING.



"Ah, Jenny, I'm not jesting,  
Believe what I'm protesting,  
And yield what I'm requesting  
These seven years through."

"Ah, Lawrence, I may grieve you;  
Yet, if I can't relieve you,  
Sure, why should I deceive you  
With words untrue.

But, since you must be courtin',  
There's Rosy and her fortune,  
'Tis rumoured your consortin'  
With her of late.

Or there's your cousin Kitty,  
So charming and so witty,  
She'd wed you out of pity,  
Kind Kate."

"Fie! Jenny, since I knew you,  
Of all the lads that woo you,  
None's been so faithful to you,  
If truth were told;  
Even when yourself was dartin'  
Fond looks at fickle Martin,  
Till off the thief went startin'  
For Sheela's gold."

"And, if you've known me longest,  
Why should your love be strongest,  
And his that's now the youngest,  
For that be worst?"

"Fire, Jenny, quickest kindled  
Is always soonest dwindled,  
And thread the swiftest spindled  
Snaps first."

"If that's your wisdom, Larry,  
The longer I can tarry,  
The luckier I shall marry  
At long, long last."

"I've known of girls amusing,  
Their minds, the men refusing,  
Till none were left for choosing  
At long, long last."

"Well, since it seems that marriage  
Is still the safest carriage,  
And all the world disparage  
The spinster lone;  
Since you might still forsake me,  
I think I'll let you take me.  
Yes! Larry, you may make me  
Your own!"

## THE HOUR WE PARTED.



The hour we parted,  
 When broken-hearted  
 You clung around me,  
     Maureen, aroo,  
 I swore I'd treasure,  
 Thro' pain and pleasure,  
 Thro' health and sickness,  
     My love for you.  
 And still that jewel,  
 Thro' changes cruel  
 Of fickle Fortune  
     I'll jealous guard ;  
 Still let her vary,  
 The jade contr'ary,  
 If but my Mary  
     Be my reward.

Yes ! scorn and anger,  
 Distress and languor,  
 They're welcome willing,  
     The long day thro',  
 Could I feel certain  
 That ev'ning's curtain  
 But clos'd us nearer,  
     Maureen, aroo !

The dreamy shadows  
 Along the meadows  
 Go softly stealing,  
     And falls the dew ;  
 And o'er the billows,  
 Like faithful swallows,  
 All, all my thoughts, dear,  
     Fly home to you.

With touches silken,  
 I see you milking  
 The crossest Kerry  
     In Adragole ;  
 And like a fairy  
 You're singing, Mary,  
 Till every keeler  
     Is foaming full.  
 The night is falling,  
 And you are calling  
 The cattle homeward,  
     With coaxing tone ;  
 In God's own keeping,  
 Awake or sleeping,  
 'Tis now I leave you,  
     Maureen, mavrone !



## THE SMITH'S SONG.



"Ding dong, didilium! the big sledge is swinging,  
 Ding dong, didilium! the little hammer's ringing,  
 Ding dong, didilium! set the bellows snoring:  
 Ding dong, didilium! the red fire is roaring.  
 Hush, boys, and hark, boys, I hear a pair eloping,  
 Hush, boys, and hark, boys, they'll go free, I'm hoping,  
 Ding dong, didilium! I hear a shoe clinking,  
 Ding dong, didilium! there's need of nails, I'm thinking.  
*Ding dong, didilium! the big sledge is swinging,*  
*Ding dong, didilium! the little hammer's ringing."*

"For Heaven's sake, a shoe, smith!" "Your honor, here 'tis ready;  
 Woa, mare, and so, mare, and steady, girl, steady!  
 Ding dong, didilium! off goes the carriage,  
 Ding dong, didilium! good luck be with the marriage.—*Ding dong, &c.*

"Hush, boys, and hark, boys, I hear the kettle drumming,  
 'Drimin dhu, drimin dhu,' King James's horse are coming;  
 Up, on the thatch, where my pretty pikes are hidden,  
 And have them all handy and bright when you're bidden."—*Ding dong, &c.*

"For Heaven's sake, the pikes, smith!" "They're here for your picking,  
 Long pikes and strong pikes, and pikes for Dutchmen-sticking!  
 Ding dong, didilium! cursing in their cruppers,  
 Here jog the Mynherrs, 'tis time for our suppers."—*Ding dong, &c.*

## PLERACA.



*Beimeedh a gole !*  
 Fill up the bowl,  
 Let us console  
 Dull care with a glass, boys ?  
 Shall it be wine,  
 Fragrant and fine,  
 Fresh smuggled from Spain underneath a mattrass, boys ?  
 No ! all of those pleasant  
 Casks out of Cadiz  
 Leave as a present,  
 Lads, for the ladies !  
 But for ourselves, sure  
 What should we say  
 But Whiskey for ever !  
 Till dawning of day.

*Beimeedh a gole !*  
 Wasn't it droll,  
 He that first stole  
 Fire from Heaven's grate, boys,  
 Look now, was left,  
 Chained to a cleft,  
 A century through, for an aigle to ate, boys !  
 St. Pat, though, when stealing  
 Fire from that quarter,  
 Kept it concealing  
 Snug under water ;  
 Till he'd conveyed it  
 Safe to the ground,  
 Then looked, and, begorra,  
 'Twas *whiskey* he found.

*Beimeedh a gole !*  
 Each with his poll  
 Quite in control,  
 For all its containing ;  
 Smiling we sit,  
 Warming our wit  
 With nectar the Gods might begrudge us the draining.  
 Now, ere we go snoozing  
 Under the clothes,  
 Don't be refusing  
 One health I propose.  
 Here's to the darling,  
 Pale as the dew,  
 That pounds Purple Bacchus  
 And all of his crew !

## SONG OF THE GHOST.



When all were dreaming  
 But Pastheen Power,  
 A light came streaming  
 Beneath her bower :  
 A heavy foot  
 At her door delayed,  
 A heavy hand  
 On the latch was laid.

"Now who dare venture,  
 At this dark hour,  
 Unbid to enter  
 My maiden bower?"

"Dear Pastheen, open  
 The door to me,  
 And your true lover  
 You'll surely see."

"My own true lover,  
 So tall and brave,  
 Lives exiled over  
 The angry wave."

"Your true love's body  
 Lies on the bier,  
 His faithful spirit  
 Is with you here."

"His look was cheerful,  
 His voice was gay;  
 Your speech is fearful,  
 Your face is grey;

And sad and sunken  
 Your eye of blue;  
 But Patrick, Patrick,  
 Alas! 'tis you!"

Ere dawn was breaking  
 She heard below  
 The two cocks shaking  
 Their wings to crow.

"Oh, hush you, hush you,  
 Both red and grey,  
 Or you will hurry  
 My love away.

"Oh, hush your crowing,  
 Both grey and red,  
 Or he'll be going  
 To join the dead;  
 Oh, cease from calling  
 His ghost to the mould,  
 And I'll come crowning  
 Your combs with gold."

When all were dreaming  
 But Pastheen Power,  
 A light went streaming  
 From out her bower;  
 And on the morrow,  
 When they awoke,  
 They knew that sorrow  
 Her heart had broke.

## COLLEEN OGE ASTHORE.



When I marched away to war,  
How you kissed me o'er and o'er :  
    Weeping, pressed me ;  
    Sobbing, blessed me ;  
Colleen, colleen oge asthore.

I was wounded, wounded sore,  
*Dead*, your father falsely swore ;  
    Mad to harry  
    You to marry  
One with miser-gold in store.

Ah ! but when you dreamed me dead,  
Forth you flew a wildered maid :  
    Ever grieving,  
    Ever weaving  
Willow, willow for your head.

"Nay, he lives," your mother said,  
But you only shook your head ;  
    "Why deceive me ?  
    Ah ! believe me,  
Mother, mother, he is dead."

So you pined and pined away,  
Till, when in the winter grey  
    Home I hasted,  
    Wan and wasted,  
Colleen, colleen oge, you lay.

"'Tis his lonesome ghost," you said,  
"Come to call me to the dead ;"  
    "Nay, discover  
    Your dear lover  
Longing now at last to wed."

Then your cheek, so pale before,  
With the rose of hope once more,  
    Faintly, slowly,  
    Brightly, wholly,  
Blossomed, colleen oge asthore.

Till upon the chapel floor,  
Side by side, we knelt and swore,  
    Duty dearest,  
    Love sincerest,  
Colleen, colleen oge asthore.

## THE FLIGHT OF THE EARLS.



To other shores across the sea  
 We speed with swelling sail ;  
 Yet still there lingers on our lee  
 A phantom Innisfail.  
 Oh fear, fear not, gentle ghost,  
 Your sons shall turn untrue !  
 Though fain to fly your lovely coast,  
 They leave their hearts with you.

As slowly into distance dim  
 Your shadow sinks and dies,  
 So o'er the ocean's utmost rim  
 Another realm shall rise ;  
 New hills shall swell, new vales expand,  
 New rivers winding flow,  
 But could we for a foster land  
 Your mother-love forego ?

Shall mighty Espan's martial praise  
 Our patriot pulses still,  
 And o'er your memory's fervent rays  
 For ever cast a chill ?  
 Oh, no ! we live for your relief,  
 Till home from alien earth  
 We share the smile that gilds your grief,  
 The tear that gems your mirth.

## A SAILOR LOVED A FARMER'S DAUGHTER.



A sailor once wooed a farmer's daughter,  
The fairest lass in all the country side.  
She loved him well ; but when he besought her  
With beating, beating heart to be his bride,  
"A sailor lad," she said, "I'll never, never wed,  
And live a wife and widow all in one ;  
O no, my charmer shall be a farmer,  
Returning faithful with the set of sun."

At danger's call, across the water  
The sailor went, but left his heart behind ;  
Fresh lovers whispered the farmer's daughter ;  
Yet when they prayed her to confess her mind,  
"A farmer's lad," she said, "I'll never, never wed,  
When heroes bleed to guard their native strand.  
Till war is over I need no lover :  
Then let the stoutest soldier claim my hand."

When peace returned, escaped from slaughter,  
With stars and crosses home our warriors came,  
And some went wooing the farmer's daughter,  
But none could charm the lass to change her name ;  
Until once more from far a gallant, gallant tar  
Began with beating heart his love to tell ;  
And sweetly turning, with blushes burning,  
She sighed : "Since first we met I've loved you well !"



## FATHER O'FLYNN.



Of priests we can offer a charmin' variety,  
 Far renowned for larnin' and piety ;  
 Still, I'd advance ye widout impropriety,  
 Father O'Flynn as the flower of them all.

## CHORUS.

*Here's a health to you, Father O'Flynn,  
 Slainté, and slainté, and slainté agin ;  
 Powerfulest preacher, and  
 Tindereest teacher, and  
 Kindliest creature in ould Donegal.*

Don't talk of your Provost and Fellows of Trinity,  
 Famous for ever at Greek and Latinity,  
 Faix and the divels and all at Divinity,  
 Father O'Flynn 'd make hares of them all !  
 Come, I vinture to give ye my word,  
 Never the likes of his logic was heard,  
 Down from mythology  
 Into thayology,  
 Troth ! and conchology if he'd the call.—*Chorus.*

Och ! Father O'Flynn you've the wonderful way wid you,  
All ould sinners are wishful to pray wid you,  
All the young childer are wild for to play wid you,  
You've such a way wid you, Father avick !  
Still for all you've so gentle a soul,  
Gad, you've your flock in the grandest control ;  
Checking the crazy ones,  
Coaxin' onaisy ones,  
Liftin' the lazy ones on wid the stick.—*Chorus.*

And though quite avoidin' all foolish frivolity,  
Still at all seasons of innocent jollity,  
Where was the play-boy could claim an equality  
At comicality, Father, wid you ?  
Once the Bishop looked grave at your jest,  
Till this remark set him off wid the rest :  
“ Is it lave gaiety  
All to the laity ?  
Cannot the clergy be Irishmen too ? ”—*Chorus.*

## 'Twas pretty to be in BALLINDERRY.



'Twas pretty to be in Ballinderry,

'Twas pretty to be in Aghalee,

'Twas prettier to be in little Ram's Island,

Trysting under the ivy tree!

Ochone, ochone!

Ochone, ochone!

For often I roved in little Ram's Island,

Side by side with Phelimy Hyland,

And still he'd court me and I'd be coy,

Though at heart I loved him, my handsome boy!

"I'm going," he sighed, "from Ballinderry

Out and across the stormy sea;

Then if in your heart you love me, Mary,

Open your arms at last to me."

Ochone, ochone!

Ochone, ochone!

I opened my arms; how well he knew me!

I opened my arms and took him to me;

And there, in the gloom of the groaning mast,

We kissed our first and we kissed our last!

Twas happy to be in little Ram's Island,  
But now 'tis sad as sad can be ;  
For the ship that sailed with Phelimy Hyland  
Is sunk for ever beneath the sea.

Ochone, ochone !

Ochone, ochone !

And 'tis oh ! but I wear the weeping willow,  
And wander alone by the lonesome billow,  
And cry to him over the cruel sea,  
"Phelimy Hyland, come back to me !"

## MY BONNY CUCKOO.



My bonny cuckoo, come whisper true !  
 Around the world I'd rove with you ;  
 I'd rove with you until the next spring,  
 And still my cuckoo would sweetly sing,—  
 "Cuckoo ! cuckoo !" until the next spring ;  
 "Cuckoo ! cuckoo !" until the next spring.

The ash and the hazel shall mourning say,—  
 "Oh, merry cuckoo, don't fly away !  
 The winter wind is rude and keen ;  
 Oh, cuckoo, stay and keep us green !  
 Cuckoo ! cuckoo ! oh stay ! oh stay !  
 And make the season for ever May !"

The thrush and the robin shall sadly cry,—  
 "Our bonny cuckoo, oh, do not fly !  
 For when you spread your speckled wing  
 We have no longer heart to sing.  
 Cuckoo, cuckoo, still lead our tune,  
 And make the season for ever June !"

The lads and the lasses together stand,  
 And call their cuckoo from off the strand,—  
 "How can you leave us, bird of love,  
 With the green below and the blue above ?  
 Oh no ! oh no ! you shall not go,  
 With the blue above and the green below."

## JACK THE JOLLY PLOUGHBOY.



As Jack the jolly ploughboy was ploughing through his land,  
 He turned his share and shouted to bid his horses stand,  
 Then down beside his team he sat, contented as a king,  
 And Jack he sang his song so sweet he made the mountains ring  
     With his Ta-ran-nan nanty na,  
     Sing ta-ran-nan nanty na,  
 While the mountains all ringing re-echoed the singing  
     Of ta-ran-nan nanty na.

'Tis said old England's sailors, when wintry tempests roar,  
 Will plough the stormy waters, and pray for those on shore;  
 But through the angry winter the share, the share for me,  
 To drive a steady furrow, and pray for those at sea.

With my Ta-ran-nan nanty na, &c., &c.

When heaven above is bluest, and earth most green below,  
Away from wife and sweetheart the fisherman must go,  
But golden seed I'll scatter beside the girl I love  
And smile to hear the cuckoo and sigh to hear the dove,  
With my Ta-ran-nan nanty na, &c., &c.

'Tis oft the hardy fishers a scanty harvest earn  
And gallant tars from glory on wooden legs return,  
But a bursting crop for ever shall dance before my flail,  
For I'll live and die a farmer all in the Golden Vale.  
With my Ta-ran-nan nanty na, &c., &c.

## CAOINE.



Cold, dark, and dumb lies my boy on his bed ;  
 Cold, dark, and silent the night dews are shed ;  
 Hot, swift, and fierce fall my tears for the dead !

His footprints lay light in the dew of the dawn  
 As the straight, slender track of the young mountain fawn ;  
 But I'll ne'er again follow them over the lawn.

His manly cheek blushed with the sun's rising ray,  
 And he shone in his strength like the sun at midday ;  
 But a cloud of black darkness has hid him away.

And that black cloud for ever shall cling to the skies :  
 And never, ah, never, I'll see him arise,  
 Lost warmth of my bosom, lost light of my eyes !



## THE REJECTED LOVER.



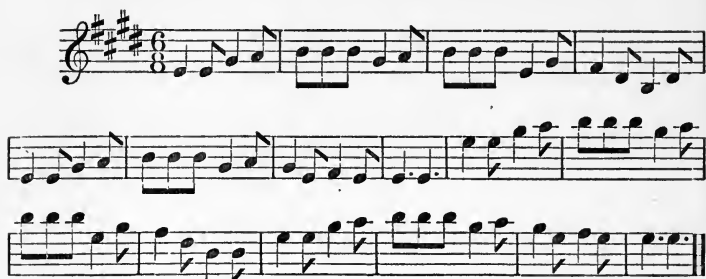
On Innisfallen's fairy isle,  
 Amid the blooming bushes, O!  
 We leant upon the lover's stile,  
 And listened to the thrushes, O!  
 When first I sighed to see her smile,  
 And smiled to see her blushes, O!

Her hair was bright as beaten gold,  
 And soft as spider's spinning, O!  
 Her cheek out-bloomed the apple old  
 That set our parents sinning, O!  
 And in her eyes you might behold  
 My joys and griefs beginning, O!

In Innisfallen's fairy grove  
 I hushed my happy wooing, O!  
 To listen to the brooding dove  
 Amid the branches cooing, O!  
 But oh! how short those hours of love,  
 How long their bitter rueing, oh!

Poor cushat thy complaining breast  
 With woe like mine is heaving, oh!  
 With thee I mourn a fruitless quest,  
 For ah! with art deceiving, oh!  
 The cuckoo-bird has robbed my nest,  
 And left me wildly grieving, oh!

## IRISH SPINNING WHEEL SONG.



Show me a sight  
 Bates for delight  
 An ould Irish wheel wid a young Irish girl at it.  
 O ! No !  
 Nothin' you'll show  
 Aquals her sittin' and takin' a twirl at it.

Look at her there,  
 Night in her hair—  
 The blue ray of day from her eye laughin' out on us !  
 Faix, an' a foot,  
 Perfect of cut,  
 Peepin' to put an end to all doubt in us

That there's a sight  
 Bates for delight  
 An ould Irish wheel wid a young Irish girl at it.  
 O ! No !  
 Nothin' you'll show  
 Aquals her sittin' an' takin' a twirl at it.

How the lamb's wool  
 Turns coarse an' dull  
 By them soft, beautiful, weeshy, white hands of her ;  
 Down goes her heel,  
 Roun' runs the reel,  
 Purrin' wid pleasure to take the commands of her.

Then show me a sight  
Bates for delight  
An ould Irish wheel wid a young Irish girl at it.  
O! No!  
Nothin' you'll show  
Aquals her sittin' an' takin' a twirl at it.

Talk of Three Fates,  
Seated on seats,  
Spinnin' and shearin' away till they've done for me.  
You may want three  
For your massacre;  
But one fate for me, boys, and only the one for me.

And  
Isn't that fate,  
Pictured complate,  
An ould Irish wheel wid a young Irish girl at it?  
O! No!  
Nothin' you'll show  
Aquals her sittin' an' takin' a twirl at it.

## IRISH LULLABY.



I'd rock my own sweet childie to rest in a cradle of gold on a bough of  
the willow,  
To the *shoheen sho* of the wind of the west and the *sho hoo lo* of the soft  
sea billow.

Sleep, baby dear,  
Sleep without fear,  
Mother is here beside your pillow.

I'd put my own sweet childie to sleep in a silver boat on the beautiful  
river,  
Where a *shoheen* whisper the white cascades, and a *sho hoo lo* the green  
flags shiver.

Sleep, baby dear,  
Sleep without fear,  
Mother is here with you for ever.

*Sho hoo lo!* to the rise and fall of mother's bosom 'tis sleep has bound  
you,  
And O, my child, what cozier nest for rosier rest could love have found  
you?

Sleep, baby dear,  
Sleep without fear,  
Mother's two arms are clasped around you.

## GOOD NIGHT.



Now ! good night ! our feast is ending,  
 Where in laughing troops attending ;  
 Wit and worth and beauty blending  
     Sped the hours with dance and song.  
         Beauty's smile.  
         Free from guile,  
         Wit that shone  
         Wounding none :  
 And manly worth and woman true,  
 Good night ! and joy go home with you.

Good night ! and may your minstrel's numbers  
 Echoing on amid your slumbers,  
 Spell-bind every care that cumbers  
     Lover's heart, and mother's breast.  
         Beauty, mirth,  
         Wit and worth  
         Fall to sleep  
         Calm and deep,  
 Nor rouse, till rosy morrow call,  
 "Awake, and joy go with you all !"



## NOTES.





### **The Little Red Lark.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 203.)

PAGE

3. This poem was suggested by the following passage from Miss Brooke's now rare "Reliques of Irish Poetry,"<sup>1</sup> p. 232. "In another song, a lover, tenderly reproaching his mistress, asks her, why she keeps morning so long indoors? and bids her come out, and bring him the day." Its title, "The Little Red Lark," is given in Hoffmann's collection of Irish music<sup>2</sup> as the name of an old melody.

### **Lobe's Wishes.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 204.)

5. These words are written to a melody in Petrie's collection of Irish music.<sup>3</sup> The first verse is founded upon a Celtic song, of which the two following stanzas in translation have been furnished me by my friend Dr. Joyce:—

Would God I were a little apple,  
Or one of the small daisies,  
Or a rose in the garden  
Where thou art accustomed to walk alone;  
In hope that thou wouldst pluck from me  
Some wee little branch,  
Which thou wouldst hold in thy right hand  
Or in the breast of thy robe.

The second verse is original. My words, arranged as a song by Dr. Hiles to the old air printed in the appendix, are published by Forsyth Brothers, of London and Manchester.

### **I Once Loved a Boy.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 205.)

6. Suggested by and written to an air of this name in Petrie's collection. The words of the original song are as follows:—

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<sup>1</sup> George Bonham, Dublin, MDCCLXXXIX.

<sup>2</sup> "Ancient Music of Ireland," from the Petrie collection, arranged for the pianoforte by F. Hoffmann. Dublin: Pigott and Co., 112, Grafton Street. 1877.

<sup>3</sup> "The Petrie Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland," vol. 1. Dublin: Printed at the University Press, for the Society for the Preservation and Publication of the Melodies of Ireland. By M. H. Gill. 1855.

I once lov'd a boy, and a bonny, bonny boy,  
Who'd come and go at my request ;

I lov'd him so well, and so very very well,  
That I built him a bower in my breast—  
In my breast,  
That I built him a bower in my breast.

I once lov'd a boy, and a bonny, bonny boy,  
And a boy that I thought was my own ;  
But he loves another girl better than me,  
And has taken his flight and is gone—  
And is gone,  
And has taken his flight and is gone.

The girl that has taken my own bonny boy,  
Let her make of him all that she can,  
For whether he loves me or he loves me not,  
I'll walk with my love now and then—  
Now and then,  
I'll walk with my love now and then.

6. *Wirrasthrue* = "O Mary and sorrow !"

### The Banks of the Daisies.

7. Suggested by a song of this name, but not written directly to the music of it.

*Forenint* = before, in front of.

### Herring is King.

9. Suggested by a song of this name in Horncastle's "Irish Entertainment," which opens in the same way and has the same Irish refrain, the second line of which translates the first. Otherwise the poem is original.

*Shawn*, Irish for "John."

10. *Góleen* = creek.

### Hush Song.

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 206.)

12. Written to an old Irish lullaby in Petrie's collection. The last stanza alone is suggested by a verse in the Celtic original, of which the following is a literal translation :—

Sleep, my child, and be it the sleep of safety,  
And out of your sleep may you rise in health ;  
May neither cholic nor death-stitch strike you,  
The infant's disease, or the ugly small-pox.

PAGE

12. *Laddo*, a playful form of the word "lad." Cf. *boyo*.

The refrain has no more precise meaning than "Hush-a-bye."

13. *Banshee*. Literally "a woman from the fairy-hills": a sad spirit who is often heard wailing at night, when a member of the family is about to die.

### *The Foggy Dew.*

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 207.)

14. Suggested by and written to an air of this name in Bunting's collection.<sup>1</sup> There are rustic words to it, but they are not of any literary value. My own words were written before I met with them.

### *The Confession.*

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 208.)

16. Written to an air in Bunting's collection of Irish music beginning with the words—

A lovely lass to a friar came  
To confess one morning early.

and suggested by them. I have not been able to procure the rest of the old ballad.

*O vo!* an Irish exclamation expressive of sorrow or surprise.

17. *Hot-foot*, a good old English expression implying great haste, commonly used in Munster.

### *The Girl I left behind me.*

18. There are several well-known versions of this song. I need hardly say, therefore, that my words are original except so far as the situation of the singer and the refrain are concerned.

The *route*, pronounced "rout" by the soldiers = marching orders.

### *Eba Tuohill.*

20. Music has been written to this song by Charles Salaman, and is published by Novello, Ewer, and Co., 1, Berners Street, London, W.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Ancient Music of Ireland," arranged for the pianoforte by Edward Bunting. Dublin: Hodges and Smith. 1840.

**'Tis I can weabe Woollen and Linen.**

PAGE

22. Written to and suggested by an air, "'Tis I can weave linen and woollen" in Bunting's collection. I have not come across any other words belonging to the original ballad.

**Maureen, Maureen.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 210.)

23. Suggested by the two lines—

Oh, Nancy, Nancy, don't you remember  
The protestations that you made to me?

which appear in Petrie's collection in connection with the air to which I have written my words.

*Arbutus*, pronounced "arbútus" in the south of Ireland.

24. *Maureen bawn asthore* = fair-haired little Mary, my treasure.

**When I rose in the Morning.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 212.)

25. Suggested by and written to an air with this title in Petrie's collection.

*Wood-quest* = wood-pigeon.

**The Mill Song.**

27. Suggested by a shorter song, the refrain of which I alone make use of, in Horncastle's "Irish Entertainment."

**'Tis a pity I can't see my love.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 213.)

30. Suggested by and written to an air with this title in Bunting's collection. I have not come across any other words belonging to the original ballad.

**With the North.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 214.)

32. An Irish-American ballad written to the air of the "Irish haut-boy" (Petrie's collection), but entirely original.

**Nancy, the Pride of the West.**

PAGE

35. Suggested by the title of a song, "Nancy, the Pride of the East," but not written to the air that goes by that name.
36. *Tussocks* = tufts.  
*For all that* = Notwithstanding that.

**Jenny, I'm not Jestin'.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 216.)

37. Written to the air "Biddy, I'm not jesting," in Hoffmann's collection, the title of which is all that I know of the words of the song.

**The Hour we Parted.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 218.)

40. Written to the air "I'd make my love a breast of glass" in Petrie's and Hoffmann's collections of Irish music.  
*Aroo* closely corresponds with the exclamations "O dear!" "O dear me!"
41. *Distress* = bodily suffering in Irish peasant parlance.  
*Kerry* = Kerry cow.
42. *Keeler* = wooden milking vessel.

**The Smith's Song.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 219.)

43. Written to an air of which Dr. Petrie thus speaks:—"The Smith's Song' has very evidently been suggested, like Handel's 'Harmonious Blacksmith,' by the measured time and varied tones of his hammers striking upon the anvil."—"Ancient Music of Ireland," p. 171. He also thus quotes from a communication made to him on the subject of the same song by Professor O'Curry: "The song and tune of 'Ding dong, didilium! Buail seo, seid seo,' must be one of great antiquity. I scarcely ever heard it sung but to pacify a crying or *cross* infant; and then the woman sang it with a slow swinging motion of her body backwards and forwards, and to either side, with the child in her arms, with no intention, however, to put it to sleep. Sometimes there was no swing of the body; but then the foot went down on the heel and toe alternately, but in such a measure of time as resembled, in some way, the striking of the iron on the smith's

PAGE

anvil, where he himself gave two blows with his *lamh-ord*, or hand-hammer," the "little hammer" in my song, "for every one blow that the sledger gave with his *ord mor*," my "big sledge," or sledge hammer.

43.

*"I hear the kettle-drumming,  
'Drimin dhu, drimin dhu.'"*

A reference to another old air, used as a party tune during the war (1688-90), "The White-backed Black-haired Cow," representing, by a very strange metaphor, the cause of James II. (See Bunting's collection.)

My words are original, except in so far as they reflect a similar reference to an elopement in T. Irwin's ballad "The Mountain Forge," and are indebted to the refrain of the Celtic song, thus translated by Professor O'Curry:—

Ding dong, didilium !  
Strike this, blow this ;

with regard to which he has written : "It may be objected that the words 'ding dong,' in the burden of this song, are modern ; but such is not the fact, for where the 'Annals of the Four Masters' record, at the year 1015, the death of MacLiag, poet and secretary to Brian Boru, they also record the following verse, which it would appear was the last verse the poet composed while on his death-bed, and which contains the very words in question:—

O bell, which art my pillow's head,  
To visit thee no friends come ;  
Though thou makest thy 'ding dang,'  
It is by thee the salt is measured."

### Mo Muirnin Dhu.

45. This title, which signifies "my black-haired darling," was suggested by and written to an air in Petrie's collection, "Mo muirnin oge."
46. *Collogue* = colloquium, chat.

### Pleraca.

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 220.)

47. The above term is thus explained by Professor O'Curry: "Wherever the word *Pleraca* occurs in any Irish song or rhyme of the last

PAGE

hundred years, it is in the sense of an abandonment to drinking, dancing, singing, or love-making, carried out in all imaginable riotous and reckless gaiety, and was, no doubt, looked upon as the ball of the times then passing."—Petrie's "Ancient Music of Ireland," p. 16.

47. *Beimeedh a go!e!* = "Let us be drinking," the first words of a Cork drinking song, the music of which, noted from the whistling of an Irish friend, will be found in the musical appendix. My words are written to this air: but borrow only the first line of each stanza from the Irish song.

*Matträss* = mattress.

48. *He that first stole  
Fire from Heaven's grate, boys* = Prometheus.

### Song of the Ghost.

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 222.)

50. Written to an air in Hoffmann's collection bearing this name.

*And I'll come crowning  
Your combs with gold.*

Suggested by this exquisite fragment supplied me by Dr. Joyce, which occurs in a ballad descriptive of the visit of a lover's ghost to his betrothed. Before daybreak, in order to keep him still longer with her, she says:—

"O my pretty cock, O my handsome cock,  
I pray you do not crow before day,  
And your comb shall be made of the very beaten gold,  
And your wings of the silver so gray."

### Colleen Oge Asthore.

53. Air, "Callino Casturame," Hoffmann's collection.

NOTE.—"It is evidently to this tune that Shakespeare alludes in the play of Henry V., act iv., scene 4, where Pistol, on meeting a French soldier, exclaims, 'Quality! Calen, O custure me.' In the folio we find 'Calmie custure me,' which has been turned in the modern editions into 'Call you me? Construe me.' Malone found among 'Sundry new Sonets in a handefull of pleasant Delites 1584' a sonnet of a lover in praise of his lady to 'Calen, O custure me,' sung at every line's end. In Mr.

PAGE

Lover's 'Lyrics of Ireland,' he notices the resemblance of the first word to the name 'Caillino,' speaking of Mrs. Fitzsimon's beautiful poem, 'The Woods of Caillino,' and adds: 'Mr. Boswell, in his edition of Shakespeare, says that Mr. Finnegan, master of the school established in London for the education of the Irish, says the words mean "Little girl of my heart for ever and ever."' Now this is not the meaning, and I cannot but wonder that, with so much literary discussion as has taken place on the subject, the true spelling and consequently the meaning of the burden have remained till now undiscovered. The burden, as given in the 'Handefull of pleasant Delites,' and copied by Malone, is 'Calen O custure me,' which is an attempt to spell and pretty nearly represents the sound of 'Colleen oge astore,' and these words mean 'Young girl, my treasure.'"—Stokes' "Life of Petrie," p. 431, quoted by Hoffmann in his "Ancient Music of Ireland," p. 137.

This interesting air is taken from Queen Elizabeth's Virginal Book, and is published by Mr. W. Chappell in his "English Music of the Olden Time." I have the permission of Messrs. Chappell to reproduce it in my musical appendix, where it will be found at p. 223.

### *The Flight of the Earls.*

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 224.)

56. "Tyrone deliberately gave up the national cause, when resistance was no longer possible; and, submitting to the inevitable, proposed to hold his earldom as an English subject." . . . "If he had fallen sword in hand, the English might have felt the sympathy due to a gallant foe; but that six years of warfare, costly and bloody, should have left Hugh O'Neill the Earl of Tyrone, was a very unsatisfactory result." . . . "Day by day he must have learned, by a continuous course of litigation and insult, that he was a marked man." . . . "Exactly in the same position as the earl was Rory O'Donnell, who, following the example of Tyrone, had submitted to, and received from, the English Government the title of Earl of Tyrconnell. For some years the two earls led a most uncomfortable and not a very dignified life, until, in 1607, when O'Neill proposed to try his grievances before James I. in London. Hearing, however, that



PAGE

he would there be arrested on a charge of conspiracy, he availed himself of the despatch by his friend Cuconaght Maguire of an armed ship from Flanders to the north of Ireland to assist his departure. The Earl of Tyrconnell resolved to accompany him ; they both fled with their families, and succeeded in embarking in Maguire's vessel in the Lough Swilly."—Richey's "Lectures on Irish History : Second Series," E. Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

56. *Innisfail*, an ancient poetical name of Ireland.

57. *Espan* = Spain.

### **Kitty Bhan.**

58. Suggested by and written to an Irish ballad and air, "O Woman of the House," in Petrie's collection ; indeed, an adaptation of the original Celtic, thus translated by the late Edward Walsh :<sup>1</sup>

Before the sun rose at yester-dawn,  
I met a fair maid adown the lawn ;  
The berry and snow to her cheek gave its glow,  
And her bosom was fair as the sailing swan.  
Then, pulse of my heart ! what gloom is thine ?

Her beautiful voice more hearts hath won  
Than Orpheus' lyre of old had done ;  
Her ripe eyes of blue were crystals of dew,  
On the grass of the lawn before the sun.  
And, pulse of my heart ! what gloom is thine ?

*Kitty Bhan* or *Bawn* = Fair-haired Kitty.

### **The White Blossom 's off the Bog.**

59. Suggested by the first line of the following couplet, translated from the Celtic on p. 8 of Petrie's collection :—

"The white blossom is on the bogs and autumn is on the return,  
And though marriage is a pretty, pretty thing, 'tis sorrowful  
and tearful it has left me."

### **With Fluttering Joy.**

60. The first of these two stanzas is founded upon the following verse, translated thus by Dr. Joyce from the Irish :—

<sup>1</sup> "Irish Popular Songs, with English Metrical Translations," by the late Edward Walsh. Dublin : James M'Glashan. 1847.

PAGE

How delightful for the little birds  
 Who rise up on high,  
 Who are accustomed to warble with each other  
 On the same branch.

Not so is it with me and  
 My hundred thousand loves ;  
 It is far from each other  
 Each day finds us when it dawns.

The second stanza is original.

### A Sailor lobed a Farmer's Daughter.

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 225.)

61. Suggested by and written to an air in Bunting's collection. The following four lines, for which I am indebted to Dr. Joyce, will give an idea of the character of the popular ballad to this fine tune :—

A sailor courted a farmer's daughter  
 Who lived convenient to the Isle of Man.  
 Remark, good people, what followed after,—  
 A long time courting and nothing done.

### The Reaper's Revenge.

63. Suggested by and written to the air of "Beside the White Rock," but founded upon no earlier words to that melody.  
*Acora* = my friend.

### The Blue, Blue Smoke.

65. This song was suggested in part by a letter written me by my friend Dr. Joyce, in which the words "the dim old days" occurred ; in part by a song by his brother, Dr. R. D. Joyce, entitled the "Yellow, Yellow Hair."

*The chapel's distant chime* = The angelus bell.

*Coom* = valley.

66. *Herself* = the wife. Himself and herself are thus used in the south of Ireland to imply the master and mistress of the house.

**Father O'Flynn.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 227.)

PAGE

71. *Slainté* = your health.  
*Trinity* = Dublin University.
72. *Make hares of them* = utterly rout and put to flight in argument,  
 a common Irish peasant phrase.  
*Avick* = my son; a palpable bull in the context.

**Mollren Oge.**

74. The title means "Young little Molly."  
*Brogue* = shoe.
75. *The vogue* = the fashion.

**Two Irish Idylls.**

76. *Yerrig!* an exclamation addressed to the pony = our "Jick!" or  
 "gee-up!"
77. *Pogue* = kiss.

**Fan Fitzgerald.**

79. *Fitzgerl*, a slovenly pronunciation of "Fitzgerald."  
*Wirra, wirra! ologone!* exclamations of distress.  
*Cot* = caught.
80. *Apast* = past.  
*Beyant* = beyond.

**Bat of the Bridge.**

81. *Bat* or *Batsy*, the short for "Bartholomew."
82. *Thrun away* = thrown away.  
*Proper man* = fine, hearty man.  
*A broth of a boy* = a choice spirit.  
*Adragole*, pronounced as though written "Adragool."
83. *Unknownst* = unnoticed.
85. *Iday* = idea.  
*Fellas* = fellows.  
*Bellas* = bellows.  
*Give them a twist* = hurt, injure.  
*Corney* = Cornelius.  
*Bad scran* = bad luck.

### The Night in the Snow.

PAGE

87. *Sorra letter* = not one letter, alas !

*Keþ* = kept.

88. *The overside* = the opposite side.

*Callin' you in church.* Relatives and friends of Irish emigrants in the States whom they have lost sight of are assisted in getting tidings of them by the American priests, who, during service in church, ask their congregations for information about them.

*Mavrone* = my sorrow ! alas !

89. *Windy* = window.

### What is Life without a Wife ?

90. *Festal Chorus.* This poem partakes of the nature of the "Loobeen," for an explanation of which see page 255.

### The Wreck of the Aideen.

93. *God incrase ye* = God prosper you.

*Mortial* = mortal.

*Distress me* = hurt me.

94. *Ologone !* an exclamation of deep sorrow.

*Machree* = my heart.

*Agra*, a term of endearment ; dear love.

### The Handsome Witch.

96. *Many a colleen in the dairy, &c.* The waving of the churnstaff and the scattering of salt were and, indeed, are counter-charms employed to baffle the pranks supposed to be played by witches and fairies upon Irish dairies.

97. *Thry for butter ; i.e.,* lift the lid or save-all of the churn, and test the milk for butter with a spoon.

*Morna drew the dead-man's hand.* "When no butter would come the witch was at that moment in her cavern, seated on her heels before a vessel of water, from which, by drawing a deadman's hand through it, she appropriated the produce of other people's honest labour." Thus write the brothers Banim in their tale of "The Hare-hound and the Witch."

## Sowing the Turf.

PAGE

98. *Slan* (the *a* sounded long as in "far") = the narrow spade used for cutting or digging up the *turf* or peat.

*The bawn* = home-field for cattle.

*Footin'* = laying out the sods of turf lengthways. *Settin'* = setting up two or three of the peats endways against one another.

*The say-turn* = the sea-breeze which commonly sets in on a fine summer's afternoon.

*Drawin'* = carting away the peat.

*The boats are out in the bay*; i.e., for fishing purposes.

*Haggard* = hay-yard.

## Loobeen.

99. "The Loobeen," writes Mr. Bunting, quoted by Dr. Petrie in his "Ancient Music of Ireland," "is a peculiar species of chant, having a well-marked time, and a frequently recurring chorus or catch-word. It is sung at merry-makings and assemblages of the young women, when they meet at 'spinnings' and 'quiltings,' and is accompanied by extemporaneous verses of which each singer successively furnishes a line. The intervention of the chorus after each line gives time for the preparation of the succeeding one by the next singer, and thus the Loobeen goes round until the chain of song is completed."

After comparing the Loobeen to the Highland Luinniochs, Dr. Petrie thus quotes Professor O'Curry: "Sometimes the group consisted of the daughters of the house, and neighbouring poorer girls, who are engaged for hire at—say in 1816—three-pence a day each. Sometimes it was the *comhar* or reciprocal co-operation of the daughters of two or more neighbouring families; but, in all cases, the work—particularly wool-spinning—was carried on with an accompaniment of singing. . . . Generally they sang, two at a time, extemporaneous verses to peculiar airs, to none of which have I ever heard songs or verses of another kind."

A specimen of the Loobeen is then added, every line of which is preceded and followed by the crambe words *Mallo lero, and eembo nero*,—*Mallo lero, and eembo bawn*, as follows:—

"I traversed the wood when day was breaking."

"For John O'Carroll you wandered so early."

## PAGE

- "With gads begirt, let him plough through Erinn!"  
 "You mannerless girl, he is your match for a husband."  
 "I care not, leave off, get me my own love!"  
 "Thomas O'Maddigan, take and be pleased with."  
 "I take, and hail, and may I well wear my husband."  
 "To the east or the west may you never be parted."  
 "Go westward, go eastward, and find me my own love."  
 "Donnell O'Flaherty, take and be pleased with."  
 "It's Joan O'Kelly that would strike me in the face."  
 "If the man is worth it, don't let her take him."  
 "There's no tree in the wood that I could not find its equal."

My poem is founded on this translation from a Celtic original, but is irregular as a Loobeen in that it dispenses with a refrain. Neither is it written to a Loobeen air.

99. *With your pippen, &c.* Preference on the part of a girl for a young man amongst the Cork and Kerry peasantry was, if it is not still, shown by throwing an apple at the object of affection. Readers of Virgil will of course at once think of *Malo me Galatea petit*.  
 100. *Murt-na-mo* = Murtoogh of the cows, or with the good herd of cattle.  
 101. *The model teacher* = a teacher in one of the Government Model Schools.

### The Black '46.

102. *A sacred tree.* One of the old trees which are still objects of reverence in different parts of Ireland, owing to their actual or supposed connection with some early saint, or on some such other religious ground.  
*Two boreens* = two little roads; two deep lanes.  
 103. *Yous* = you.  
*Crep* = crept.  
*Unbeknownst* = unnoticed.  
*Spuds* = potatoes.  
 104. *Folly* = follow.

### Shuille Agra.

107. My version of this ballad is founded upon the two following editions of it, which are printed side by side for comparison with each other and with my own. The first of them was obtained by me from the Library of the Royal Irish Academy;

the second is copied from a broadsheet picked up by my friend Dr. Joyce :—

## SHUILE AGRA.

As I roved through my new garden bowers,  
To gaze upon fast fading flowers,  
And think upon the happiest hours

That fled in Summer's bloom.

Shuile, shuile, shuile agra,

Time can only ease my woe ;

Since the lad of my heart from me did go,

Gotheen mavourneen slaun.

'Tis often I sat on my true love's knee,  
And many a fond story he told me ;  
He told me things that ne'er would be,  
Gotheen mavourneen slaun.

Shuile, shuile, &c.

I'll sell my rock, I'll sell my reel,  
When flax is spun I'll sell my wheel,  
To buy my love a sword and shield,  
Gotheen mavourneen slaun.

Shuile, shuile, &c.

I'll dye my petticoat, I'll dye it red,  
And round the world I'll beg my bread,  
That all my friends would wish me dead,  
Gotheen mavourneen slaun.

Shuile, shuile, &c.

I wish I was on Brandon Hill,  
'Tis there I'll sit and cry my fill.  
That every tear would turn a mill,  
Gotheen mavourneen slaun.

Shuile, shuile, &c.

No more am I that blooming maid,  
That used to rove the valley shade,  
My youth and bloom are all decayed,  
Gotheen mavourneen slaun.

Shuile, shuile, &c.

## SHULE AGRAH.

Oft I roved my garden bowers,  
To gaze upon fast fading flowers,  
And think upon past happy hours  
That's fled like summer's bloom.

Shule, Shule, Shule arrah,

Time can never end my woe,

Since the lad of my heart did go,

Gudhe tough, gudhe tough, slaun.

No more am I that blooming maid,  
That used to rove the valley's shade ;  
My youth, my bloom, are both decayed,  
And every charm is gone.

Shule, Shule, Shule, &c.

For now he's gone to other climes,  
To seek one more pleasing to his mind ;  
But ah, the maid he left behind  
Shall love him best of all.

Shule, Shule, Shule, &c.

His eyes were black, his coat was blue,  
His hair was fair, his heart was true ;  
I wish in my heart I was with you,  
Gudhe tough, gudhe tough, slaun.

Shule, Shule, Shule, &c.

The time can only ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go.  
Uska dhe, uska dhe, mavourneen  
slaun.

I'll sell my rack, I'll sell my reel,  
When my flax is out I'll sell my wheel,  
To buy my love a sword and shield.  
Gudhe tough, gudhe tough, &c.

I wish I was in yonder hill,  
It's there I'd sit and cry my fill,  
That every tear would turn a mill.  
Gudhe tough, gudhe tough, slaun.

Shule, Shule, Shule, &c.

Oft I've sat on my love's knee,  
Many a fond story he told to me ;  
He said many things that ne'er will be.  
Gudhe tough, gudhe tough, &c.

I'll dye my petticoat, I'll dye it red,  
That round the world I may beg my bread,  
And then my parents would wish me dead.  
Gudhe tough, gudhe tough, slaun.

Shule, Shule, Shule, &c.

Time can only ease my woe,  
Since the lad of my heart from me did go.  
Uska dhe, Uska dhe, mavourneen  
slaun.

PAGE

107. *Go-thee-thu mavourneen slaun* = farewell, my darling.

*Shule agra* = come, my love.

PAGE

108. *I sold my rock, I sold my reel.* "Rock" and "reel," two parts of an Irish spinning-wheel.

*The Wild Geese* = the Irish Jacobites who left their country for service in the French army when the cause of James II. was lost.

*Mabouchal* = my boy.

*That every tear would turn a mill* = "so that" every tear, &c.

109. *I'll dye my petticoat, &c.* Probably a red petticoat was the usual mark of a beggar in the time when this ballad was written.

### Gragalmachree.

110. *Gra-gal-machree*, in plain English "fair love of my heart."

*Put your comether* = put your love spell, comether being a contraction of the words "come hither."

My song is founded on the following original, copied from a collection of old ballads in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy :—

At the foot of Newry mountain there runs a clear stream ;  
Fain would I marry pretty Polly by name ;  
She's slender in the waist, for young men to see,  
And her name in plain Irish is Gragalmachree.

'Twas on a summer's morning, as I walked along,  
Down by a green valley, I heard a fine song ;  
'Twas a fair damsel, with her voice most clear,  
Saying, how blest would I be if my darling was here.

I then drew near to a shade that was green,  
Where the leaves grew about her and she scarce could be seen ;  
And it was her whole cry, my darling come away,  
For without your loving company no longer can I stay.

The moon it may darken and shew no light,  
And the bright stars of heaven fall down quite ;  
And the rocks may melt, and the mountains move  
If ever I prove false to the fair one I love.

If I were an empress and had the care of a crown,  
And had all the money that's for it laid down,  
I would freely remit it to the boy that I love,  
And my mind I'd resign to the great God above.

Like a sheet of white paper is her neck and breast,  
She's slender in the waist and her hair is brown,  
She's a pattern of virtue wherever she goes,  
And her cheeks I compare to the red blushing rose.



PAGE

The ships on the ocean may go without sails,  
And the smallest of fishes may turn into whales,  
And in the midst of the ocean may grow apple trees,  
If ever I prove false to my Gragalmachree.

**'Twas Pretty to be in Ballinderry.**

112. Suggested by the stanza on p. 42 of Bunting's collection :—

It's pretty to be in Ballinderry,  
It's pretty to be in Aghalee,  
It's prettier to be in bonny Ram's Island  
Sitting under an ivy tree.  
Ochone, &c.  
Oh ! that I was in little Ram's Island,  
Oh ! that I was with Phelimy Diamond.  
He would whistle and I would sing,  
Till we would make the whole island ring.

The scene of this ballad, as the names of the places mentioned in it will show, is laid on the shore of Loch Neagh.

**My Bonny Cuckoo.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 231.)

114. This ballad is based upon two stanzas to a song, "The Bonny Cuckoo," in Bunting's collection, which runs as follows :—

My Bonny Cuckoo, I tell thee true,  
That through the groves I'll rove with you,  
I'll rove with you until the next Spring,  
And then my cuckoo shall sweetly sing,  
Cuckoo ! cuckoo ! until the next spring ;  
And then my cuckoo shall sweetly sing.  
The Ash and the Hazel shall mourning say,  
My bonny cuckoo, don't go away ;  
Don't go away, but tarry here,  
And make the season last all the year.

**The Willow Tree.**

116. But slightly altered from the following, which I found in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy :—

Oh, take me to your arms, love, for keen the wind doth blow ;  
Oh, take me to your arms, love, so bitter is my woe ;  
She hears me not, she cares not, nor will she list to me,  
While here I lie, alone to die, beneath the willow tree.

## PAGE

My love has wealth and beauty, and I, alas ! am poor ;  
 This ribband fair that bound her hair is all that's left to me.  
 While here I lie, alone to die, beneath the willow tree.

I once had gold and silver, and I thought e'en without end ;  
 I once had gold and silver, and I thought I had a friend ;  
 My wealth is lost, my friend is false, my love is stole from me,  
 While here I lie, alone to die, beneath the willow tree.

For an interesting note upon the air of "The Willow Tree,"  
 see p. 75 of Dr. Joyce's "Ancient Irish Music," Gill and Co.,  
 50, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin.

### Jack the Jolly Ploughboy.

117. This poem is based upon the following verse, which will be found printed on p. 20 of Bunting's collection :—

'Twas Jack the Jolly Plough-boy was ploughing in his land,  
 Cried "Yough!" unto his horses, and boldly bid them stand.  
 Then Jack sat down upon his plough, and thus began to sing,  
 And Jack he sung his song so sweet he made the valleys ring.  
     With his Too-ran-nan-nanty na,  
     Sing Too-ran-nan-nanty na,  
 Sing Too-ran-nan, Too-ran-nan, Too-ran-nan, Too-ran-nan,  
     Too-ran-nan-nanty na.

118. The Golden Vale in Tipperary and Limerick.

### Jenny.

119. Founded on the following ballad obtained by me in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy :—

At dawn I rose with jocund glee,  
 For joyful was the day,  
 That could this blessing give to me,  
 Now joy is fled away, Jenny.  
 Nor flocks nor herds, nor store of gold,  
 Nor house nor home have I ;  
 If beauty must be bought and sold,  
 Alas ! I cannot buy, Jenny.  
 Yet I am rich, if thou art kind,  
 So priz'd a smile from thee ;  
 True love alone our hearts shall bind,  
 Thou'rt all the world to me, Jenny.  
 Sweet, gentle maid, tho' patient, meek,  
 My lily drops a tear,  
 Ah ! raise thy drooping head, and seek  
 Soft peace and comfort here, Jenny.

*The Fox Hunt.*

PAGE

120. I am indebted to Dr. Joyce for the following broadsheet version of the ballad "Tally-ho! hark-a-way," the rollicking air to which will be well known to many of my readers, and on which, for I have not seen any other version of it, my lines are founded :—

## TALLY HO ! HARK AWAY.

It was on the first of March, in the year of thirty-three,  
There was fun and recreation in our own country ;  
The King's County sportsmen, o'er hills, dales, and rocks,  
Most nobly set out in the search of a fox.

## CHORUS.

Tally ho ! hark away ! tally ho ! hark away.  
Tally ho ! hark away ! my boys, away, hark away !

When they started poor Reynard he fac'd to Tullamore,  
Through Wicklow and Arklow, along the sea-shore,  
They kept him in view the whole length of the way,  
And closely pursued him through the streets of Roscrea.

When Reynard was started he faced down the hollow,  
Where none but the huntsmen and hounds they could follow ;  
The gentlemen cried " Watch him," saying " What shall we  
do here ?

If the hills and dales don't stop them he will cross to Kildare."

There were one hundred and twenty sportsmen went down to  
Ballyland,

From that to Blyboyne<sup>1</sup> and Ballycumminsland ;  
But Reynard, sly Reynard, arrived on that night,  
And they said they would watch him until the daylight.

It was early next morning the hills they did appear,  
With the echoes of the horn and the cry of the hounds ;  
But in spite of his action, his craft, and his skill,  
He was taken by young Donohoe going down Moranze.

When Reynard was taken his wishes to fulfil,  
He called for pen, ink, and paper, to write his last will,  
And what he made mention of you'll find it is no blank,  
For he gave them a cheque on the National Bank.

*Hullahoo*, an Irish equivalent for " Tally ho ! "

---

<sup>1</sup> Broadsheet spelling for Ballyboyne.

### The Fairy Branch.

PAGE

125. This poem is founded upon a prose tale, "How Cormac Mac Airt got his Branch," a literal translation of which Celtic tale will be found on p. 213 of "Transactions of the Ossianic Society for the Year 1855," Vol. III. But there is an older version in the Book of Ballymote.

*Arch King of Erin, Ard Righ Erind; i.e.,* "The paramount King, or High King of Erin, who resided at Tara until the middle of the seventh century," p. 231., Vol. I., of "Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish," by Professor O'Curry.

*His Dun in Liathdrum* = his Royal Fort in Tara.

126. *Cairbré* = Cairbre Liffeachair.

128. *That held the blackbirds hushed in Derrycarn.* These birds are rendered famous by Ossian.

129. *His daily round  
Of royal duty.*

"There are now seven occupations in the law of a king: viz., Sunday, at ale drinking, for he is not a lawful Flaith who does not distribute ale every Sunday; Monday, at legislation, for the government of the tribe; Tuesday, at chess; Wednesday, seeing grey-hounds coursing; Thursday, at the pleasures of love; Friday, at horse-racing; Saturday, at judgment."—O'Curry, "Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish."

*Torque* = the neck-torque or gorget of spirally twisted gold.

*Fails* = bracelets.

130. *The king's high Ollamh* = the Chief Justice of the Airecht Fodeisen or King's Court.

*Penalty  
Exceeding great for satire.*

"From the remotest time down to our own," writes Professor O'Curry, "the power of satire was dreaded in Erin, and the 'enecland' or penalty for it was serious."

*The Brehon who rehearsed the Rann* (or satire) = the inferior judge to the presiding Ollamh, one of the Brethem no Dobeir who sat in the King's Court. See p. 272, Vol. I., of O'Curry's "Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish."

132. *Timpan*, a stringed instrument of music, but as to how it was played and what it was like we are left in doubt.

PAGE

134.

*Her yellow curls, clustering like rings of gold.*

The passage in the "Lay of Oisín on the Land of Youths," describing Niamh, has the following :—

A gold ring was hanging down  
From each yellow curl of her golden hair.

136. *The hand-log* = a wooden knocker.

*A royal hall.* The description of Mananan's palace is based upon information on early Irish interiors to be found in Professor O'Curry's work.

137. *A great wood-ranging* . . . *boar.* The wild boar is very frequently alluded to in the Bardic Poems.

139. *Kieves* or *keeves* = tubs.

*Mananan*, the chief of the Dedannans, or Irish pagan deities, was a sea-god, and gave his name to the Isle of Man.

### Beltane.

144. *Beltane* = May-day. My lines are a verse rendering of the following translation from a beautiful though obscure lyrical fragment attributed to Finn Mac Cumhiall, the traditionary leader of the Fení :—

May day, delightful time ! how beautiful the color !  
The blackbirds sing their full lay, would that Laighaig were here ;  
The cuckoos sing in constant strains, how welcome is the noble  
Brilliance of the seasons ever ; on the margin of the branchy woods  
The summer suaill (swallows) skim the stream, the swift horses  
seek the pool,

The heath spreads out its long hair, the weak fair bog-down grows.  
Sudden consternation attacks the signs, the planets in their courses  
running exert an influence :

The sea is lulled to rest, flowers cover the earth.

Mr. John O'Daly, as editor of the "Transactions of the Ossianic Society for 1856," thus writes of this poem : "The words of this fragment, which was considered to be the first composition of Finn, after having eaten the salmon of the Boyne, is very ancient and exceedingly obscure. The translation is only offered for the consideration of Irish scholars, for it is certain that the meaning of some of the lines is doubtful. The poem obviously wants some lines at the end, and Mr. Cleaver states that the remaining portion of the manuscript is so defaced as to render it totally illegible."

## Patrick and Oisín.

PAGE

145. Oisín, the Irish Ossian, after several centuries' sojourn in Fairyland, returns to Erin, riding on a magic steed, only to find his heroic Finian comrades passed away from the land. By neglecting to keep his feet from Irish soil, as enjoined by the fairies, he suddenly shrinks from a stalwart champion into a decrepit old man, and becomes until death a discontented dependant of St. Patrick and his monks.

My poem is a translation of a few verses of a long Celtic poem, the "Dialogue of Oisín and Patrick," which will be found in the "Transactions of the Ossianic Society for 1856," and to which I gladly refer my readers, not only on account of its great poetical merits, but also because of its remarkable psychological interest.

*Dord-Finn chorus* = the Dord Fiansa, "which," writes Professor O'Curry, "I should take to be a species of military chorus or concert."

*Letter Lee*. This place is not yet identified.

*Gleann-a-Sgail* = the Glen of Scal.

146. *Derrycarn*, an oakwood in the county of Meath.

*Glennamoo* = the glen of victories.

*The Ridge by the stream*. Unidentified.

*Tra-Rury* = a loud surge in the Bay of Dundrum, co. Down.

*Irrus* = Erris, a barony in the north-west of Mayo.

*The Suir*. "The first, the gentle Shure, that making way  
By sweet Clonmell, adorns rich Waterford."

*Spenser's "Fairy Queen," Bk. II.,  
canto xi., verse 43.*

## Cucullain's Lament over Ferdiah.

147. Ferdiah, chief of the Fir-bolgs, is tempted by the promise of great possessions and the hand of Fionavar, daughter of Queen Maev, whose whole army his best friend, Cucullain, the Champion of the Red Branch, is keeping at bay, to go out and do battle with the hero. Cucullain slays him after a fierce struggle, and thus laments over his corpse, taking in his hand the royal brooch which the Queen had given him. (Observe Cucullain and Ferdiah, though obliged to fight, were dear old friends):—

PAGE

Alas ! oh, golden brooch !  
 Oh, Ferdiah of the poets !  
 Oh, stout hero of slaughtering blows !  
 Valiant was thine arm.

Thy yellow, flowing hair,  
 The curled, the beauteous jewel ;  
 Thy soft, foliated girdle  
 Upon thy side till death.

Delightful thy fellow-pupilship ;  
 Beaming, noble eyes ;  
 Thy shield with its golden rim ;  
 Thy chess which was worth riches.

Thy fall by my hand,  
 I feel it was not right.  
 It was not a friendly consummation.  
 Alas ! O golden brooch, alas !

The whole of the story of Cucullain and Ferdiah is most eloquently and touchingly told in the first volume of "The History of Ireland," by Standish O'Grady ; Sampson Low and Co., London.

### The Song of the Fairy King.

148. "This Midir (the Fairy King), like the rest of his race, was an accomplished magician ; and, in a short time after the marriage of Edain, he appeared in disguise at the palace of Tara. He asked to play a game at chess with the monarch Eochaidh Fedleach, and won the queen Edain as the stake." As he is about to carry off the queen, he thus addresses her :—

"O *Befinn* (Fair Woman), will you come with me  
 To a wonderful country which is mine,  
 Where the people's hair is of golden hue,  
 And their bodies the colour of virgin snow ?  
 There no grief or care is known ;  
 White are their teeth, black their eyelashes ;  
 Delight of the eye is the rank of our hosts,  
 With the hue of the fox-glove on every cheek.  
 Crimson are the flowers of every mead,  
 Gracefully speckled as the blackbird's egg ;  
 Though beautiful to see be the plains of Innisfail,  
 They are but commons compared to our great plains.  
 Though intoxicating to you be the ale-drink of Innisfail,  
 More intoxicating the ales of the great country ;  
 The only land to praise is the land of which I speak,  
 Where no one ever dies of decrepit age.

PAGE

Soft sweet streams traverse the land ;  
 The choicest of mead and wine ;  
 Beautiful people without any blemish ;  
 Love without sin, without wickedness.  
 We can see the people upon all sides,  
 But by no one can we be seen ;  
 The cloud of Adam's transgression it is  
 That prevents them from seeing us.  
 O Woman ! should you come to my brave land,  
 It is golden hair will be on your head ;  
 Fresh pork, beer, new milk, and ale,  
 You there shall have with me, O Béfinn !"

This remarkable story and poem are regarded by Professor O'Curry, from whose writings I have made the above extracts, as of great antiquity. The incident is most poetically worked out in prose by Mr. Standish O'Grady, in a chapter entitled "The Fairy Bride," in his "History of Ireland," Vol. I.

### O'Curran's Song.

150. To my friend, Dr. Joyce, I am indebted for the following brief sketch (supplied to him by Mr. John Fleming, of Rathgormack, in the county Waterford) of one of our most remarkable Irish peasant poets, O'Curran :—

Poor O'Curran's story was tragical enough. Hired by a farmer in Modeligo, who had but one child, a little girl, O'Curran was given to understand that on her coming to a marriageable age, her hand and the farm together would be bestowed upon him, provided he served faithfully until then. He served seven years, it is said, and, like the patriarch of old, was cheated. Being sent to Cork to sell some loads of corn and buy the wedding dress, etc., the young woman, during his absence, was married to another man who had a fortune. O'Curran travelled day and night, but a long journey a century ago could not be got over in a hurry. As he approached the home of his betrothed early in the morning, he was met by the wedding party going to their respective homes after the night, and it is said that some of them made him the butt of their ridicule. Entering the house, and learning how matters stood, he threw into the fire the "favours" he had brought from Cork, as well as his own wedding clothes, and for ever after roamed over the country a madman—but with his poetical powers intact—and always engaged in singing his own misfortunes and the cruelty of his Mary. O'Curran's story was known to every man and woman in the county of Waterford fifty years ago, and there are persons still living who have seen him.



PAGE

Dr. Joyce has also furnished me with the subjoined literal translation of O'Curnan's most popular love lyric, versified by me in the same measure as the original under the above title :—

O Mary, sweet and fair, who left this sigh in the midst of my heart,  
That the Island of Fōdla would not heal,  
I would swear by my hand, hadst thou understood my case,  
That thou would'st not let me die without relief.  
I do not take an ounce of food, I do not sleep when I lie down,  
There is no liveliness nor strength in me, but I am like a small shadow ;  
And unless I find time and opportunity to speak with the love of my innermost heart,  
I shall not be alive in a quarter nor in a month.

No one alive knows my trouble, or how to cure it,  
Except only the maiden who has left me heart-sick ;  
My cure is not to be found in sea or on strand, nor in herb nor in skill of hand ;  
My cure is nowhere to be found except with the Flower of Youthfulness !  
I know not the cuckoo from the hen, I know not heat from cold,  
I do not at any time recognise my friends ;  
I know not night from day—but well would my heart know its True-love,  
If she would only come in time, and save me !

Save me, dear love, save me ! give me one sweet kiss from thy mouth,  
And lift me back again to thee from death ;  
Or bespeak for me a narrow bed, in a close deal coffin,  
In the company of the chafer and his kindred.  
My life is not life, but death ; by voice is not voice, but mere breath ;  
I have no colour, no life, no health ;  
But I am tearful, sad, feeble, without music, without amusement,  
without vigour,  
In hard slavery and pain for love of thee !

150. *Mary bawn asthore* = fair-haired Mary, my treasure.  
*The Isle of Fōdla* = Ireland.

### Caoine.

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 234.)

152. This *Caoine*, *keen* or lamentation, is written to the music of the "Ulster Goll," which will be found at length in Bunting's collection. It is a verse translation or adaptation from one of

## PAGE

Crofton Croker's Irish Keens, which I find thus quoted at p. 326 of Vol. I. of "Hayes' Ballads of Ireland:"

"Cold and silent is thy bed. Damp is the blessed dew of night; but the sun will bring warmth and heat in the morning, and dry up the dew. But thy heart cannot feel heat from the morning sun: no more will the print of your footsteps be seen in the morning dew, on the mountains of Ivera, where you have so often hunted the fox and the hare, ever foremost amongst young men. Cold and silent is now thy bed.

"My sunshine you were. I loved you better than the sun itself; and when I see the sun going down in the west, I think of my boy and of my black night of sorrow. Like the rising sun, he had a red glow on his cheek. He was as bright as the sun at midday; but a dark storm came on, and my sunshine was lost to me for ever. My sunshine will never again come back. No! my boy cannot return. Cold and silent is his bed." . . .

### Snow Stains.

164. An American poem, "Beautiful Snow," has a good deal in common with these lines. I had better, therefore, say that I have never seen that poem, and that it was not repeated to me until five years after my own was written.

### A Song of the Seasons.

166. Suggested by one of Barry Cornwall's lyrics, which is in the same measure, and which devotes a stanza to each of the four seasons.

### The Rejected Lover.

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 235.)

171. Suggested by these few lines in Bunting's collection to the air of "The Rejected Lover:"

"Her hair was like the beaten gold,  
Or like the spider's spinning;  
It was in her you might behold  
My joys and woes beginning."

### Ambrose and Ana.

176. This is a literal verse rendering of a prose translation of the Danish ballad, "Aäge and Elsé," furnished me by Mr. Peter Toft.

**Companions.**

PAGE

198. This song, under the title of "The Two Friends" has been set to music by Mr. Joseph Robinson, and is published by Cramer, Wood, and Co., Westmorland Street, Dublin.

**Good Night.**

(See MUSICAL APPENDIX, p. 239.)

199. Suggested by and written to an air in Petrie's collection entitled, "Good Night, and Joy be with you all."





## INDEX.

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### SONGS AND BALLADS :—

	PAGE
The Little Red Lark - . . . . .	3
Love's Wishes - . . . . .	5
I Once Loved a Boy - . . . . .	6
The Banks of the Daisies . . . . .	7
Herring is King - . . . . .	9
Hush Song - . . . . .	12
The Foggy Dew - . . . . .	14
The Confession - . . . . .	16
The Girl I left behind me - . . . . .	18
Eva Tuohill - . . . . .	20
'Tis I can weave Woollen and Linen . . . . .	22
Maureen, Maureen - . . . . .	23
When I rose in the Morning - . . . . .	25
The Mill Song - . . . . .	27
'Tis a pity I can't see my love . . . . .	30
With the North - . . . . .	32
Nancy, the Pride of the West . . . . .	35
Jenny, I'm not Jestng - . . . . .	37
The Hour we Parted - . . . . .	40
The Smith's Song - . . . . .	43
Mo Muirnin Dhu - . . . . .	45
Pleraca - . . . . .	47
Song of the Ghost - . . . . .	50
Colleen Oge Asthore - . . . . .	53
The Flight of the Earls - . . . . .	56
Kitty Bhan - . . . . .	58
The White Blossom 's off the Bog - . . . . .	59
With Fluttering Joy - . . . . .	60
A Sailor loved a Farmer's Daughter . . . . .	61
The Reaper's Revenge - . . . . .	63
The Blue, Blue Smoke - . . . . .	65

### RUSTIC POEMS :—

Father O'Flynn - . . . . .	71
Molleen Oge - . . . . .	74
Two Irish Idylls - . . . . .	76

RUSTIC POEMS (*continued*):—

	PAGE
Fan Fitzgerl - - - - -	79
Bat of the Bridge - - - - -	81
The Light in the Snow - - - - -	87
What is Life widout a Wife? - - - - -	90
The Wreck of the Aideen - - - - -	93
The Handsome Witch - - - - -	95
Saving the Turf - - - - -	98
Loobeen - - - - -	99
The Black '46 - - - - -	102

## ANGLO-IRISH BALLADS :—

Shuille Agra - - - - -	107
Gragalmachree - - - - -	110
'Twas pretty to be in Ballinderry - - - - -	112
My Bonny Cuckoo - - - - -	114
The Willow Tree - - - - -	116
Jack the Jolly Ploughboy - - - - -	117
Jenny - - - - -	119
The Fox Hunt - - - - -	120

## FROM THE CELTIC :—

The Fairy Branch - - - - -	125
Beltane - - - - -	144
Patrick and Oisín - - - - -	145
Cucullain's Lament over Ferdiah - - - - -	147
The Song of the Fairy King - - - - -	148
O'Curnan's Song - - - - -	150
Caoine - - - - -	152

## SONGS AND SKETCHES :—

Song - - - - -	155
From the Red Rose - - - - -	157
O Branch of Fragrant Blossom - - - - -	158
One Loving Smile - - - - -	159
Snow Drift - - - - -	160
Shamrock Leaves - - - - -	163
Snow Stains - - - - -	164
A Song of the Seasons - - - - -	166
Maureen - - - - -	168
Spring's Secrets - - - - -	169
The Rejected Lover - - - - -	171
The Beautiful Bay - - - - -	173
Ambrose and Una - - - - -	176
Orpheus to Pluto - - - - -	181
Song: To E. P. - - - - -	185

SONGS AND SKETCHES (*continued*):—

	PAGE
Choosing a Profession - - - - -	188
Myrtilla - - - - -	190
Love's Surprise - - - - -	191
Amœbæan - - - - -	193
Love's Song - - - - -	196
Companions - - - - -	198
Good Night - - - - -	199

## MUSIC:—

The Little Red Lark - - - - -	203
Love's Wishes - - - - -	204
I Once Loved a Boy - - - - -	205
Hush Song - - - - -	206
The Foggy Dew - - - - -	207
The Confession - - - - -	208
Maureen, Maureen - - - - -	210
When I rose in the Morning - - - - -	212
'Tis a pity I can't see my love - - - - -	213
With the North - - - - -	214
Jenny, I'm not Jestng - - - - -	216
The Hour we Parted - - - - -	218
The Smith's Song - - - - -	219
Pleraca - - - - -	220
Song of the Ghost - - - - -	222
Colleen Oge Asthore - - - - -	223
The Flight of the Earls - - - - -	224
A Sailor loved a Farmer's Daughter - - - - -	225
Father O'Flynn - - - - -	227
'Twas pretty to be in Ballinderry - - - - -	229
My Bonny Cuckoo - - - - -	231
Jack the Jolly Ploughboy - - - - -	232
Caoine - - - - -	234
The Rejected Lover - - - - -	235
Irish Spinning Wheel Song - - - - -	236
Irish Lullaby - - - - -	238
Good Night - - - - -	239

## NOTES:—

The Little Red Lark - - - - -	243
Love's Wishes - - - - -	243
I Once Loved a Boy - - - - -	243
The Banks of the Daisies - - - - -	244
Herring is King - - - - -	244
Hush Song - - - - -	244
The Foggy Dew - - - - -	245
The Confession - - - - -	245

## NOTES (continued) :—

	PAGE
The Girl I left behind me	245
Eva Tuohill	245
'Tis I can weave Woollen and Linen	246
Maureen, Maureen	246
When I rose in the Morning	246
The Mill Song	246
'Tis a pity I can't see my love	246
With the North	246
Nancy, the Pride of the West	247
Jenny, I'm not Jestng	247
The Hour we Parted	247
The Smith's Song	247
Mo Muirnin Dhu	248
Pleraca	248
Song of the Ghost	249
Colleen Oge Asthore	249
The Flight of the Earls	250.
Kitty Bhan	251
The White Blossom 's off the Bog	251
With Fluttering Joy	251
A Sailor loved a Farmer's Daughter	252
The Reaper's Revenge	252
The Blue, Blue Smoke	252
Father O'Flynn	253
Molleen Oge	253
Two Irish Idylls	253
Fan Fitzgerald	253
Bat of the Bridge	253
The Light in the Snow	254
What is Life widout a Wife?	254
The Wreck of the Aideen	254
The Handsome Witch	254
Saving the Turf	255
Loobeen	255
The Black '46	256
Shuile Agra	256
Gragalmachree	258
'Twas pretty to be in Ballinderry	259
My Bonny Cuckoo	259
The Willow Tree	259
Jack the Jolly Ploughboy	260
Jenny	260
The Fox Hunt	261
The Fairy Branch	262
Beltane	263
Patrick and Oisín	264
Cucullain's Lament over Ferdiah	264



NOTES (*continued*):—

	PAGE
The Song of the Fairy King	- 265
O'Curnan's Song	- 266
Caoine	- 267
Snow Stains	- 268
A Song of the Seasons	- 268
The Rejected Lover	- 268
Ambrose and Una	- 268
Companions	- 269
Good Night	- 269

The End.



## CORRIGENDA.

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- P. 3. Supply a comma at the end of line 13.  
P. 13. Convert the comma at the end of line 11 into a full stop.  
P. 20. Transfer comma from end of line 18 to end of line 17.  
Pp. 45, 46. For "moireen" read "muirmin."  
P. 77. Strike out comma at end of line 7.  
P. 93. Cancel comma before "Aideen."  
P. 103, line 4. For "right" read "night."  
,, lines 10, 12. For "dawn" read "shade," and for "slan" "spade."  
Pp. 107-109. For "Gotheen" read "Go-thee-thu."  
P. 109. Supply comma at end of line 16.  
P. 121, line 8. For "Blyboyne" read "Ballyboyne."  
P. 129, line 13. Before "smote" supply "wildly."  
P. 130, line 3. For "hundred-battled" read "hundred-fighter."



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